Hafa Adai!

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Joint resolution to support 5-year transition extension. PAGE 2
Canuto surrenders; amount allegedly stolen now at $96K. PAGE 7

Chance for 'green card' after 5 years

» 6 groups of aliens in CNMI covered in US Senate immigration bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Under the newly released immigration reform bill hammered out by the "Gang of Eight" in the U.S. Senate, certain long-term, legal foreign workers in the CNMI and their immediate relatives may start applying for lawful permanent residency or "green card" five years after the proposal is signed into law. This provides pathway to U.S. citizenship.

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EMPATHY ACROSS THE MILES HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The U.S. and CNMI flags at half staff flutter in the wind in front of the building that houses the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Gov. Eloy S. Inos ordered the immediate lowering of all U.S. and CNMI flags at half staff as a "mark of respect" for the victims of a "senseless acts of violence," referring to the two bombs that went off at the Boston Marathon in Massachusetts on Monday that killed three people and wounded almost 200 others.

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More cuts in 2014 budget plan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» 20-percent cut on 'all others' budget
» Deputy secretaries to be removed

Gov. Eloy S. Inos briefed lawmakers yesterday afternoon on his proposed $120-million budget for fiscal year 2014, the highlights of which include a 20-percent across-the-board cut on agencies' "all others" or non-personnel account, removal of all deputy secretary posts, and the merger of the Department of Labor and Workforce Investment Agency.

The governor plans to submit his budget proposal to the

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Rate hike for sanitary permits, others in offing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Businesses and individuals who need to obtain sanitary permits and other certificates from the Division of Public Health will soon pay higher fees, according to its director, Roxanne Diaz.

She said the rate hike is based on the result of a cost analysis conducted on revenue-generating units of the division such as the Bureau of Environmental Health.

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Military to tap Tinian utility, help improve seaport

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If and when a Record of Decision is released in 2016 related to the U.S. military's plan to build live-fire and maneuver ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, the CNMI could start seeing construction and additional economic activities as early as 2017.

Below are excerpts from *Saipan Tribune*'s interview with U.S. Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden and deputy director William S. Febuary:

Question: Does self-sufficiency include the military generating or using

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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you support a U.S. military plan to use Pagan as a training area?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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An earthquake at the Iran-Pakistan border kills dozens. ➤ PAGE 16

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Texas woman self-publishes and hits the best-seller lists. ➤ PAGE 17

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Local

Joint resolution to support 5-year transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs will introduce in today's session a joint resolution supporting a five-year extension of the Commonwealth-only transitional worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014 "to prevent collapse of the CNMI economy."

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said the current U.S. worker pool remains inadequate to support the tourism-based economy, so the transition period needs to be extended to continue to tap foreign workers.

Without such extension of the transitional CW program, the CNMI could lose access to over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers, many of whom do not qualify for H visas.

Conner's (Ind-Tinian) resolution comes weeks after Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) separately asked U.S. Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris to extend the transition period up to 2019.

"This resolution, once adopted by the House and Senate, will show the federal government that we are moving in one direction," Conner told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Once it is introduced on the floor today, House Joint Resolution 18-5 could be sponsored by a committee of the whole, he added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, separately said yesterday that he supports a five-year extension of the transition period because "there's no way the U.S. workers can now support the private sector needs."

Sablan, however, said he would like the federal government to set aside or reserve certain job categories that can be easily filled by U.S. workers, especially the young ones.

He cited, for example, the job categories for commercial cleaners and gas station attendants.

The federal government took over control of CNMI immigration in 2009 pursuant to the 2008 signing of U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

The transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014, barely 20 months from now. After that date, there will be zero CW permit for foreign workers.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, has also been asking for an extension of the transition period.

Skilled and professional foreign workers, mostly from the Philippines and China, account for some 54 percent of the workforce in the CNMI.

Many of them have been working legally in the CNMI for more than five years, including as nurses, accountants, engineers, electricians, mechanics, carpenters, house workers, and hotel and restaurant employees, among other positions.

But while the CNMI is asking for an extension, they said they will continue to train and prepare the local workforce so that they will be able to fill the labor pool needs of the private sector years from now.

Conner said in his resolution that with tourism arrivals and hotel occupancy rates improving, losing access to skilled foreign workers will hamper tourism's growth.

"An extension of the transition period would simply better fit the phase-out of foreign workers to an economically realistic timeframe. An adjustment could be necessary in preventing uncertainty over the availability of labor beyond 2014, which could impede any recovery," the resolution says.

Conner said they will make sure that a copy of this joint resolution will reach the U.S. Labor secretary, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security secretary, the U.S. Department of Defense secretary, the U.S. Department of the Interior secretary, the delegate and the governor, among others.

Delegate Sablan also asked the U.S. Labor secretary that any decision on such extension requests be made by August this year so that employers and employees can better plan the future of their business or their employment.

Delegate Sablan is also working with the Obama administration and U.S. Congress members to ensure that the CNMI is included in any national immigration reform legislation. He is seeking improved immigration status for long-term legal aliens in the CNMI, while U.S. Congress members and the Obama White House are pushing for a grant of pathway to citizenship to over 11 million undocumented aliens in the U.S. mainland.

PDM CLEANUP
Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, along with other volunteers from PDM Promoters, Inc., take part in the Garapan monthly cleanup on April 13, 2013. The group collected a total of 960 lbs of trash.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOE wants PSS laptop policy revisited

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education wants the Public School System's One Laptop Per Child Policy revisited following complaints by students and parents that many units are not being fully utilized due to limited access to the Internet while some units are not functioning at all due to damage.

BOE member Marylou S. Ada pointed out during a recent board meeting that many parents have complained about the laptops and she recommended that the existing policy be reviewed to gauge the program's effectiveness.

She suggested that instead of new laptops, the need for some physical education equipment and tools may be considered such as bicycles.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., believes that the policy remains effective as it greatly aids students in their studies. Cited as example are students involved in various school competitions such as the mock trial tilt.

The One-Laptop-Per-Child project gives laptops to students from seventh to 12th grade in both private and public schools. It was initiated in 2010 and used a portion of the one-time $34.2 million state fiscal stabilization fund from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act funds to procure the first batch of laptops for students. It was initially planned for just two school years but the Board of Education decided to continue the program.

For the next school year, another 1,000 laptops will be procured for incoming seventh graders and about $400,000 has already been set aside for this purpose, according to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

Sablan said that principals have already been tasked to monitor the issue to come up with a clear policy.

She revealed that among the schools that have a significant number of nonfunctioning units is the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, which has 43 damaged laptops out of some 200 units.

"If you have 43 units not working…it means that the 'agreement' [with parents] is not working. So we asked the principals to track and monitor [this issue]," said Sablan, who pointed out that the laptop policy was created at the request of students.

Based on PSS policy, seniors will own the units after their graduation while seventh and eighth graders will carry their units to high school.

The same policy indicates that PSS has an agreement with the parents on their responsibilities and liabilities if the units are stolen, damaged, or lost.

Governor promises to fund medical care of inmates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Inos administration vowed yesterday to set aside funding to ensure that medical care will be uninterrupted for inmates of the Department of Corrections.

The governor, according to press secretary Angel A. Demapan, will appropriate $240,000 for the purpose in his budget proposal for next fiscal year.

"The governor's [fiscal year] 2014 budget submission will include appropriation of $240,000 for medical care for the inmates," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the governor would also discuss the matter with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board and Corrections.

The CHCC board earlier threatened to terminate all medical services to inmates following revelation that the agency has been subsidizing for many years what it described as "uncompensated care." It directed hospital officials to issue a demand letter to Corrections for payment.

Prison inmates started receiving medical care from the hospital in 1999 by virtue of an agreement between the then Department of Health and DOC.

CHCC officials disclosed that the health agency spends about $240,000 each year to provide medical care for inmates. That includes the services of doctors and nurses and the provision of medicines.

Demapan

CHCC wants to collect these outstanding dues from DOC, which now amount to over $3 million covering the period from 1999.

But according to Demapan yesterday, for much of DPH's existence, the government has been providing yearly appropriation for its personnel and operation. DPH used to receive $37 million a year from the central government. In 2011, DPH was abolished following the establishment of the CHCC.

"Governor Inos would like to discuss this matter with the CHCC board and the Department of Corrections. After all, a major portion of the years being referenced by the CHCC board are years in which the hospital, under the then Department of Public Health, was being wholly funded by the Executive Branch," said Demapan.

Nonetheless, he added, the governor would like to discuss this with both sides in an effort to reach an amicable solution.

According to CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres, with the present financial condition of the corporation, it cannot provide inmates free medical services. The choice for DOC or the central government is either to have a new agreement or services will be terminated immediately.

Under the sustainability plan for CHC that was put together by a federal team, it was recommended that the corporation ask the government for appropriation for services provided to prison inmates.

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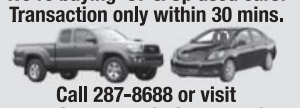
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IN FACE OF NKOREA THREATS

PSS issues 'disaster plan' to parents

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has issued a disaster plan to parents and families of students as part of a "just-in-case" initiative in the face of increasingly bellicose rhetoric from the North Korean regime.

Yvonne R. Pangelinan, member of the PSS Safe and Orderly Schools Committee and principal of San Vicente Elementary School, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that letters were sent home to parents on Tuesday containing information published by a joint information center.

Sablan

"The Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office are having discussions on the precautions needed for the general public and that information has been released to the public. The Fact Sheet includes measures that families should take such as preparing a disaster kit, creating an emergency contact list, and how to 'shelter in place,'" said Pangelinan.

In case of chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants, families are urged to select a room within their household that can be sealed off to prevent any harm.

Pangelinan assured that the CNMI is in no immediate threat but PSS is having discussions on how to respond in the unlikely event that such a disaster will happen.

"As educators, our first priority is the safety of our students, so these conversations are critical," she said, adding that students will be home safe with their families should any immediate threat occur.

Saipan Tribune learned that schools are now updating their emergency procedures to include such an event. As a member of the Safe and Orderly Schools Committee, Pangelinan urged all parents to first of all, "remain calm and carefully read through the fact sheet."

"It is important to sit with our kids and listen to their fears and questions and to assure them that all the adults who care for them will do all we can to make sure they are protected. There are many resources cited on the fact sheet that will help families facilitate these discussions with their children, so I encourage parents and guardians to use these tools," she said.

According to Pangelinan, PSS has acknowledged the seriousness of the political climate and the possible danger to schools and will take every precaution to safeguard students, staff, and faculty.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., had an emergency meeting with school principals last Friday. They reviewed PSS' emergency and logistics management plan and updated its "Shelter in Place" policy.

The commissioner said that PSS needs to take precautions from all angles as it is responsible and accountable for over 10,000 students and over 900 faculty and staff.

Inos appoints 1 more to CSC

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed Tuesday Efraim Atalig to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission representing Rota.

His appointment, which also requires the Senate's advice and consent, came a few days after the governor also named Felicitas "Tee" P. Abraham to be on the commission representing Saipan.

If confirmed, Atalig will serve on the commission until June 27, 2017.

"The [lieutenant governor] and I are confident that Mr. Atalig will be an asset on this important Commission," the governor said in his letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

As a governor's appointee, Atalig is immediately required to file a statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, a copy of his resume, police clearance, drug test receipt, and drug test result for submission to the Senate. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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Flags at half-staff for Boston victims

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos ordered yesterday the immediate lowering of all U.S. and CNMI flags at half-staff in honor of the victims of the two bombs that went off at the Boston Marathon in Massachusetts on Monday that killed three people and wounded almost 200 others.

The governor said this is a "mark of respect for the victims of these senseless acts of violence."

He ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in the CNMI until sunset on Friday, April 19, 2013.

"I ask that the people of the Commonwealth continue to keep the victims and families affected in their prayers during this difficult time," Inos said in his one-page memo to all department and activity heads.

On Tuesday, Inos said: "What occurred in Boston has no place in our society."

The governor, other island leaders, and residents joined the nation in praying for the Boston blasts' victims and their families.

In Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama said Tuesday that the Boston explosions were "a heinous and cowardly act."

"And given what we now know about what took place, the FBI is investigating it as an act of terrorism. Any time bombs are used to target innocent civilians it is an act of terror. What we don't yet know, however, is who carried out this attack, or why; whether it was planned and executed by a terrorist organization, foreign or domestic, or was the act of a malevolent individual," he said.

Obama assured the American people that while it will take time to determine what happened, "we will find whoever harmed our citizens. And we will bring them to justice."

The twin Boston explosions came at a time when the CNMI and Guam are keeping a close eye on North Korea's threats to attack its neighbors, including Guam. The governor said the CNMI is not under threat but said precautionary measures need to be taken.

CHANCE

From Page 1

The 844-page proposal, however, has yet to pass the full U.S. Senate.

The U.S. House of Representatives is also preparing its own proposal.

U.S. Sen. Marc Rubio's (R-Fla) office released Wednesday morning (late Wednesday night Saipan time) the proposal that represents the most ambitious overhaul of the nation's immigration system in three decades.

The bill is available at http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=b0a97f73-03ff-40a3-9910-45286495cf42.

The language that specifically refers to the CNMI is on Page 144, under Section 2109 and titled, "Long-term legal residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

It adds two more groups of aliens to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) original HR 1466, which covered only four groups of aliens in the CNMI.

The "fifth" new group covers those who have lived in the CNMI as a guest worker under CNMI immigration law for at least five years before May 8, 2008, and is presently a resident under CW-1 status.

The "sixth" new group includes the spouse or child of these long-term foreign workers and is presently resident under CW-2 status.

The part about "green card" or improved status application under Adjustment for long term and permanent residents states: "Beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, an alien described in subparagraph (B) may apply to receive an immigrant visa or to adjust his or her status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence."

Sablan's original H.R. 1466 sought to grant CNMI-only resident status to CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens who could be out of status after Nov. 27, 2011.

The U.S. Senate proposal gives some 11 million immigrants living illegally in the United States a chance at citizenship. This makes this proposal the most ambitious overhaul of the nation's immigration system in three decades.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, said they are "more optimistic than ever" that this time around, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI could be granted improved immigration status under U.S. law.

As of 9:45pm last night, however, the Inos administration and other stakeholders in the CNMI have yet to see the bill.

RATE

From Page 1

The bureau, which enforces and educates the public on environmental health sanitation standards and regularly inspects about 1,600 establishments on island, currently charges $50 for each sanitary permit. The fee applies to all types and sizes of businesses, whether retail establishments or hotels.

Based on the newly completed cost-analysis on the bureau, Diaz revealed that issuing the permit actually costs public health $90.

BEH's fee schedule was last updated in the 1990s.

Diaz disclosed that they are looking at raising the sanitary permit fee by 100 percent, for the division to at least break even.

She disclosed that the rate increase is also recommended for other certificates such as the food handler's certificate.

BEH needs about $100,000 annually for its regular operation, she said.

Diaz's recommendation will be presented to the governing body of the corporation, which will then be offered to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board for approval.

Other revenue generating units of the division will go through same cost analysis, including the Immunization Office and the Vital Statistics Office, where the fee for birth certificates may also be adjusted.

The corporation increased its rates for hospital services by up to 300 percent in August last year.

Diaz said that Public Health did not implement a similar rate increase last year pending the conduct of a cost analysis to justify any adjustment. She emphasized that this process takes time to accomplish.

According to federal government consultant Dr. Poki Stewart Namkung, it's usual practice for any facility to review and assess its service rates and charges every year. It's surprising, she said, that such a cost analysis has never been done at the corporation.

MILITARY

From Page 1

your own power and water supply on Tinian?

Whelden: We would draw electricity, water, sewage services from Tinian. We would also, to some degree, draw food supplies, local produce and fruits, things like that, locally. So that's the second and third-order economic impacts on the island. The fact that we become one of their customers in many ways.

Q: Will you build temporary housing for the troops or would they use existing hotels on Tinian? Where will you store military equipment and supplies?

Febuary: Part of the base camp that we propose for Tinian has warehouses plus barracks, dining facility, those types of things, so that we can be self-sufficient from the standpoint of feeding and housing the Marines and/or the soldiers, or the airmen or the National Guard. They can store their equipment but that's all within Department of Defense land.

Q: Tinian seaport is not in good shape. Can the military, in exchange for using Tinian more, help rebuild or repair the Tinian seaport?

Whelden: We're looking at that, to improve it in a number of ways. We cannot build the port to commercial standards with Department of Defense funds. We can, however, repair the port to make it capable of servicing the military ships or vessels that come in, which is a byproduct beneficial to commercial activity as well. So yes, improvement to the port is a win-win for both of us and Tinian.

Febuary: We would do that type of improvement through the Office of Economic Assistance. OEA would help facilitate various discussions with Tinian and the military so we can come to a win-win situation.

Q: If you bring in troops, equipment and supplies via the airport, then that will impact airport operations and facilities. How do you minimize the impacts?

Whelden: We're looking at a couple of ways to bring Marines in. One would be through the port. And so we're taking a close look at the port to see what its capabilities are to bring what we call joint high-speed vessels in. We hope to get one of those located in Guam and CNMI to transport Marines from Guam to Tinian. And perhaps up to Pagan if necessary. And that would carry a lot of supplies as well so we might ask Tinian to put some storage facility or trans-load facilities or capabilities at the port so we can move equipment supplies off the joint high-speed vessel on the trucks and then carry them on the DoD-leased area and store them in the warehouses and places out there—everything from toilet paper to bullets and other supplies.

Febuary: We would also establish a biosecurity zone because, in this case, people fear [the military] bringing in brown tree snake coming out of Guam. So the biosecurity area is part of the clearing, cleansing area to make sure we haven't had anybody stow away at the airport.

Q: How frequent is the training on Tinian?

Whelden: In a typical year, we expect and again this is preliminary planning, to have somewhere between 200 and 300 Marines there per week, probably 45 to 48 weeks per year. So there would be typically a Marine Corps presence on the island most of the year in the range of 200 to 300 but we would build the facilities there with the capability to surge to a larger amount perhaps a thousand or more.

Q: How do you measure the economic impact?

Whelden: We will do a socio-economic impact analysis. That means we look at the social impacts, and the economic impacts in both Tinian and Pagan. We are at the very beginning of the process.

Q: Will there really be economic impact on Tinian?

Whelden: Absolutely. In fact, Tinian has experienced that already with some of the training exercises we had done there in recent years… So what we expect in the long-term, if we end up going to Tinian, is that you can multiply that experience…

Q: Will the training limit peoples' access to Tinian's northern historic and tourist sites?

Whelden: It would limit access to some degree. Instead of a free access, which is what it is right now, it would be put into a scheduled access. And what we typically do in ranges is we schedule ranges about 30 days out. So I would be able to tell you today what we're going to do a month from now. And then we finalize those a week out and we lock them in. Let's say you runs tours to the pits, you would have access to all these schedules. We make you a customer of ours. You would be able to see when opportunities are for you to go into the training area, to the bomb pits and to the other cultural and historical sites up there.

To be continued.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to a great and beautiful mom, wife, and nina, Anna Guerrero! Cheers and enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Ryan, Randu Boy, Tyler, and the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUDGET

From Page 1

Legislature on Friday or next week, ahead of his May 1 deadline.

The governor's special assistant for management and budget, Virginia "Vicky" Villagomez, and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) separately said the administration proposes an estimated $20 million for the NMI Retirement Fund in fiscal year 2014, double the amount set aside this year.

Portions of the cuts in the "all others" budget are also set aside for the increased money for the pension agency.

Villagomez and Deleon Guerrero, among those in the closed-door meeting, also said the Inos administration is proposing a $33.5 million budget for the Public School System.

The Inos administration is proposing $1.9 million for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Of this amount, $1.2 million will fund health services for the indigent population and $240,000 for the clinical service needs of inmates at the Department of Corrections, Villagomez said.

Each department or agency will budget their own utilities expenses.

The proposed budget for other agencies, departments, and programs will be known once the governor submits his budget to the Legislature, official said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an interview with reporters after the meeting, said the governor's budget will also reflect the consolidation of Labor and WIA effective Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2014.

It also turns over the operation of the Oleai Sports Complex/Division of Sports and Recreation from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Demapan said, however, that the privatization of the functions of the Division of Parks and Recreation will take a little longer than originally planned because more time is needed to address concerns about civil service employees.

He said the Inos administration will use MAI's desk audit recommendations on DCCA and the Department of Public Safety, but these won't be in the 2014 budget but in a separate legislation.

For example, all "arts" and "cultural" related programs under DCCA could be placed under the Office of Indigenous Affairs.

The rest of the units or division such as the Office on Aging and the Nutrition Assistance Program, which administers the federal funded food stamp program, will remain under the department. DCCA could then be renamed such as Department of Human Services.

Demapan said the deputy secretary or deputy commissioner positions that are expected to be removed include those at DPS, DCCA, Department of Public Lands, and Department of Commerce.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he agrees with the "general principles" behind the governor's proposed budget but that his committee will review the details.

He said the governor's budget highlights already take into account many of the Legislature's proposed cost-cutting measures.

"But until we could see the budget, in black and white, we wouldn't know the specific amount for each agency or department. Ways and Means will start working on the budget once we receive it," Sablan said.

The governor earlier projected $114 million in revenue available for government operations in 2014. But Inos said the steady increase in tourist arrivals that translate to higher revenue prompted the revision of next year's budget to $120 million.

Ex-convict is given maximum sentence of 1 year in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict who drove recklessly at the American Memorial Park and assaulted a bystander was sentenced yesterday to a maximum of one year in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho told defendant Lionel C. Borja that personal problems are not a defense for breaking the law.

» Judge says personal problems no excuse to commit crimes

"Falling off the wagon is not an excuse. All citizens are expected to follow the law, period," Camacho told Borja.

The 34-year-old Borja was teary-eyed after the sentencing. His girlfriend, who was in the gallery, cried and hugged him tightly.

Borja was sentenced to six months in prison for reckless driving and six months for disturbing the peace. He will serve both sentences immediately, without the possibility of parole, and with credit for four days of time served.

Borja pleaded guilty last week to reckless driving and disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal. The remaining charge of assault and battery was dropped.

According to the plea deal, Borja recklessly drove his vehicle in the American Memorial Park's parking lot on Sept. 2, 2012.

When James Hemley shouted at him to slow down, Borja stopped the car, got down, and assaulted Hemley, punching and kicking him.

The incident reportedly happened on Saturday afternoon of the Labor Day weekend.

Borja asked the court to be lenient and apologized for his actions. "I do realize my mistake. I'm really sorry," he said.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister had recommended the full maximum sentence of one year. McAllister said that Borja, a trained mixed martial arts fighter, has not been properly rehabilitated, despite receiving leniency in the past.

"Stronger judicial intervention is required to deter recidivism by defendant and deter similar conduct by others," McAllister said.

Although there were no serious injuries, McAllister said the potential for harm was real.

"Recklessly operating a vehicle after consuming alcohol creates an inherent risk. This was compounded by the fact that defendant did so in a popular parking lot area during the daytime," he said.

McAllister said that Borja's actions led to a physical altercation with an innocent bystander who was just trying to protect his family from harm.

Borja's counsel, assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, had recommended a sentence of four days in prison with credit for time served.

Petersburg said that Borja had just gone through a divorce and his mother passed away at the end of 2012.

Petersburg said that Borja was dealing with his divorce and the news that his mother was ill when he went to the American Memorial Park to pick up a friend.

Petersburg said his client took responsibility for his actions by pleading guilty.

"He wishes to put this incident behind him and move on with his life, along with his new baby and a return to his position as an EMT," he said.

As for Borja's prior convictions, Petersburg said the defendant was only 21 when he committed those crimes.

Francis Taimanao, Edward Arriola Jr., and Betty Miller testified for Borja.

In sentencing the defendant, Camacho said the defense attorney stated that Borja was under stress because his mother was ill and had passed away and was going through a divorce.

"These are not excuses to commit crimes," Camacho said.

The judge said that Taimanao, Arriola, and Miller all stated that Borja was a productive member of the community but only "fell off the wagon."

Camacho said that "falling off the wagon" is not an excuse.

As to the argument that Borja was only 21 when he committed past crimes, the judge stated: "You only become an adult once."

"When you turn 18 years old you are responsible for your actions, whether you're 18 or 81," Camacho said.

Camacho noted that Borja is a repeat offender.

In 2001 case, Borja was convicted of assault and battery and was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for 10 days.

In federal court, Borja pleaded guilty to Hobbs Act robbery conspiracy and using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence. He was sentenced to 70 months.

According to federal court documents, Borja and Norman Kapileo robbed City Trust Bank of $8,649 on April 12, 2002.

BOOK DONATION CLARISSA V. DAVID
Kanji Kishi, president of the Kishiwada North Rotary Club, right, accepts the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library anniversary shirts from CNMI Library Council chair Mark Rabauliman and member Lucy Norita Shilling following the club's book donation to the library on April 13. Six officers of the Kishiwada North Rotary Club handed some 50 books to the JKPL staff and CNMI Library Council members. All donated books were printed in Japan and written in English.

The wait is over! Now that Chicken McNuggets® are back, you can smile around the cluck! From March 1 to April 25, 2013, fill up $25 worth of Synergy fuel (in a single transaction) at Mobil and get a McDonald's® 6pc. Chicken McNuggets coupon.

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'Trail of blood led to recovery of knife believed used in killing Coria'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A knife believed to be the weapon used to kill cashier Virginia Dejito Coria in the evening of Oct. 15, 1996, was subsequently recovered by investigators, a source disclosed to *Saipan Tribune*.

The source revealed that a trail of blood starting from the crime scene at the former K-Store's barracks in Gualo Rai led detectives to a flower pot near J's Restaurant in Gualo Rai where the knife was found.

The knife is among pieces of evidence that investigators have against the prime suspect—a habitual offender, the source added.

The Department of Public Safety at the time did not disclose the recovery of the murder weapon as investigation was ongoing at the time.

The source said that investigators forwarded to Australia and later to Honolulu samples of evidence for DNA testing.

The suspect was later convicted in two other criminal cases and subsequently sent to a federal prison in the U.S. mainland.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. recently announced that the Criminal Investigation Bureau's Special Homicide Activity Resolution Partnership has reopened its investigation into the murder of Coria as investigators have identified a person of interest.

Coria, a Filipino national, was 42 years old when she was found dead in her small bedroom at the back of the former K-Store, where she was employed as a cashier.

Coria's throat was reportedly slashed. The autopsy showed she had defensive wounds in both hands, indicating that she put up a struggle against the suspect.

Less than two hours before Coria was brutally killed, a Chinese woman escaped an attack by a knife-wielding unidentified man in a bushy area near the murder scene.

Inos appoints 1 more to CSC

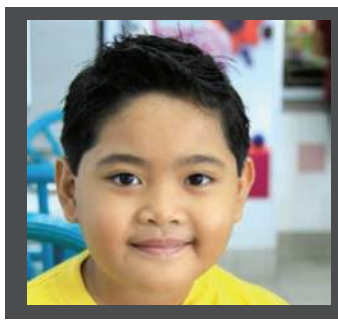
Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed Tuesday Efraim Atalig to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission representing Rota.

His appointment, which also requires the Senate's advice and consent, came a few days after the governor also named Felicitas "Tee" P. Abraham to be on the commission representing Saipan.

If confirmed, Atalig will serve on the commission until June 27, 2017.

"The [lieutenant governor] and I are confident that Mr. Atalig will be an asset on this important Commission," the governor said in his letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

As a governor's appointee, Atalig is immediately required to file a statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, a copy of his resume, police clearance, drug test receipt, and drug test result for submission to the Senate. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Justin! We wish you a year with lots of fun, excitement and wonderful memories. Love: Pa, Ma and Kuya.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COTA application for training, technical assistance selected

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's application for the Federal Transit Administration's Environmental Management System Training and Technical Assistance Program for Transit Agencies has been selected out of the hundreds of applications received.

COTA was informed that COTA's application has been chosen to join the program in an email message from Antoinette Quagliata, Environmental Protection Specialist, on April 3, 2013.

According to Quagliata, Virginia Tech will be contacting COTA soon to begin making arrangements for COTA's participation as well as to set up the baseline site visits.

"We look forward to working with your team and helping them to achieve their sustainability goals," said Qualiata.

A separate email message from Christopher Van Wyk, acting director, Office of Human and Natural Environment, to Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for Public Transportation, informed Camacho of FTA's decision to select the CNMI's application.

"At FTA, we are very excited about this training and assistance partnering opportunity. EMS implementation is a good business practice and a demonstration of environmental stewardship," Van Wyk said.

An environmental management system, or EMS, is a set of management processes and procedures that allow an organization to analyze control and reduce the environmental impact of its activities, products, and services and operate with greater efficiency and control. FTA's program walks selected agencies through the development and implementation of an EMS using the ISO 14001 Standard through a series of workshops, on-site technical support visits, electronic materials and resources, and consultation.

Prior to being approved for the program, FTA and Virginia Tech's Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement interviewed the CNMI team. The interview provided COTA with an opportunity to discuss its application and goals toward potential participation in the EMS program.

The CNMI COTA team will travel to Roanoke, Virginia, to attend a four-day workshop in August and November this year and again in February and June 2014.

This is a welcome news to COTA and the CNMI, especially when COTA is in its infant stage and just starting to assess and develop a viable transportation system in the CNMI, said Camacho.

"This training will definitely be an eye opener with NEPA compliance and Environmental Justice policy as required by FTA. COTA is very sensitive to any impact to our delicate environment and we want to make sure COTA addresses all and any environmental issues during the planning process to prevent any negative impacts to the environment," Camacho added.

To learn more about this competitive environmental training, call COTA at 664-2292 or visit http://www.cota.vt.edu/ems/fta/index.html. ***(COTA)***

CRM to lead Pau Pau Beach cleanup

Coastal Resources Management's Adopt-A-Beach program will be hosting a beach cleanup and beautification event at Pau Pau Beach on Saturday, April 27, starting at 9am in celebration of Environmental Awareness Month.

CRM staff, NMC staff and students, and Adopt-A-Beach participants will be cleaning up the beach and repainting the pavilions. The public is invited to participate and help clean up one of Saipan's most popular beaches.

"Keeping Saipan free of litter and marine debris provides residents and wildlife with a healthy environment," said CRM administrator Rita Chong-Dela-Cruz. "Trash can cause injury, sickness, and other dangers to us and our environment."

Pau Pau Beach will be getting new trash receptacles to assist with trash accumulation. However, CRM informs residents and beach-goers that the best way to keep trash off the beach is to take your trash home. Trash left in receptacles can still make its way back to the beach due to weather or wildlife.

"We will have a variety of paints and paint supplies to make the pavilions bright and colorful," said DelaCruz. "This is also a great opportunity to drop off any paint you have lying around your house and no longer using."

CRM is also looking for artists to help bring the pavilions to life through their artwork and skill sets.

Due to this event, CRM advises the public that Pau Pau Beach will be closed on Saturday. Picnics and other gatherings will be allowed to resume after the cleanup and painting.

CRM states that beach-goers may return to Pau Pau on Sunday to enjoy the beach. However, the pavilions will not be available for use as the paint will still be drying.

"Help us clean up Saipan by starting with Pau Pau, see you all at Pau Pau on April 27," said DelaCruz. ***(Office of the Governor)***

32nd
ANNUAL FLAME TREE
Arts Festival
Artist Dedication and Recognition
These artists and advocates played a significant role in ensuring that our cultural and artistic heritage is both strengthened and perpetuated. While we will miss them, their spirits live on and we dedicate this 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival to them. Thank you!
Francisco Dela Cruz
Connie J. Adams
Daniel Keli'i Johnson
Frances Camacho Keremius
Featuring Delegates from Kiribati, Chuuk, Guam, Rota and Tinian
April 19, 2013 Friday 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
April 20, 2013 Saturday 10:00 am-11:00 pm
(Official Opening Ceremony 9:00 am - 10:00 am)
April 21, 2013 Sunday 10:00 am-11:00 pm
Civic Center Park, Susupe, Saipan CNMI
Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture
Be A Part promote, preserve & perpetuate your CULTURE

Canuto surrenders; amount allegedly stolen now at $96K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Island Florals and Gift operations manager Felipe O. Canuto surrendered to the Department of Public Safety yesterday after learning that police have been hunting him on charges that he embezzled funds from the company.

Canuto, 51, a Filipino national, was later taken to Superior Court on theft charges. His bail was set at $5,000 cash plus $45,000 in unsecured bond.

Canuto is required, among other conditions, to surrender his passport, stay away from ports, and not to have direct or indirect contact with Island Florals and Gift and its owner, Nancy Baldoz.

Canuto's counsel, assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, asked that Canuto be allowed to post bail for just $5,000 cash—10 percent of the $50,000 cash bail—plus unsecured bond. Petersburg said that Canuto has been in the CNMI for a long time and is not a flight risk.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll did not object, saying it is a white-collar crime and that Canuto, who has no prior criminal case, is not a danger to the community.

Canuto

Petersburg said that Canuto is willing to surrender his passport and, in fact, surrendered to DPS after learning that police have been looking for him.

DPS issued Tuesday a press release, announcing that they are hunting down Canuto after the court issued an arrest warrant for him on theft charges.

Canuto's employer, Baldoz, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that they discovered that Canuto embezzled over $50,000 in 2011 alone through unreported sales and undeposited collections.

Canuto has been the shop's operations manager since it opened in 2002. Baldoz, who lives in Guam, said an audit is ongoing.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Baldoz appeared at DPS on March 19, 2013, to report a theft case against Canuto.

According to Pangelinan, the audit for the years 2009, 2010, and 2011 currently shows that the amount of money stolen has already reached $96,774.75.

The detective said that Baldoz started noticing differences and discrepancies in the company's bank statement and the summary report after she asked Canuto late last year to start emailing her all summary reports.

Baldoz came to Saipan this year before Valentine's Day during which she allegedly received several complaints from other companies about payments as well as walk-in customers who mentioned that the shop owes them money.

Baldoz said that based on their audit on the summary reports and cash flow, they found a large amount of money missing.

The owner said that Canuto had signed out several company checks that were payable for his personal use.

Baldoz said she confronted Canuto last March 23 regarding the discrepancies but the defendant argued and walked out of the shop and never returned.

NEW RECYCLING CENTER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov, Eloy S. Inos, eighth from left, joins other CNMI officials for the opening of the FSM Recycling Center on March 15, 2013. The new recycling center is located in Lower Base, Saipan, at the former Hawaiian Rock Office. The company offers free pickup of any scrap metal for salvaging, e.g., abandon vehicles, tin roofs, etc. Other officials in the photo are Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero, second from left; House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, sixth; Cha Jae Guk, president of FSM Recycling Center, seventh; Rep. Anthony Sablan, 10th, and Jae Yoon, vice president of FSM Recycling Center.

GSA

U.S. GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT

General Services Administration (GSA) seeks to lease the following space:

Location:	Saipan, CNMI
Sq. Ft. (ABOA):	Total of **36,429 USF** Allocated as: U.S. District Court: 20,131 USF U.S. Probation Office: 2,228 USF U.S. Marshals Service: 8,070 USF U.S. Attorneys Office: 6,000 USF
Space Type:	Courtroom, Administrative Office, & Law Enforcement
Parking Spaces (Total):	16 secured inside, 4 reserved, & sufficient employee and visitor parking
Firm Term:	20 years

This advertisement is NOT a request for a build-to-suit facility or complex.

Buildings offered for consideration must be existing or planned for development, of sound and substantial construction of the type generally recognized as contemporary with the ability to demonstrate meeting all current Federal/GSA and local codes and regulations including but not limited to fire and life safety, seismic, sustainability, OSHA, accessibility (Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS), and free of asbestos.

For additional information and **delineated area of consideration** please visit:

https://www.fbo.gov/spg/GSA/PBS/9PXT/1MP2006/listing.html
or,
www.fbo.gov and search for Solicitation # **1MP2006**

Expressions of Interest Due:	Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 5:00 pm PDT
Market Survey:	May 20-24, 2013
Occupancy:	August 2015

Send Expressions of Interest to:

Name/Title:	Taniel Baghdikian Leasing Specialist & Project Manager Real Estate Acquisition Division U.S. General Services Administration
Address:	300 N. Los Angeles Street, Suite 4100 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Office/Fax:	Inquire by email only
Email Address:	taniel.baghdikian@gsa.gov

Call for Panelists

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is issuing a call for panelists for a series of television shows examining Article XII of the CNMI Constitution regarding land alienation.

Interested panelists will be required to commit a minimum of 8-10 hours of preparation in reviewing Article XII related documents available on the Council website at www.nmihumanities.org. Other source material is also welcomed for discussion. Panelists should be prepared to discuss the following sub-topics:

Show A-The Present

- Northern Mariana Descent (NMD) as a political-not ethnic-definition
- Population trends for NMD and non-NMD
- Private land ownership
- Effects of Article XII on: descendants who fall below 25% NMD, children adopted into families, marital unions and non-NMD spouses, estates that do not have NMD descendants
- Protection of NMD people as originally intended by Article XII
- Amassing of land by NMD who can afford to buy land
- Access to credit markets
- Real property value in securing mortgages
- Access to home equity
- Restriction on land owners to freely sell land in an open market
- Northern Marianas culture as tied to land
- Issues of landlessness, foreign influence, welfare state, loss of culture
- Historical examples of Native Hawaiians and Native Americans
- Comparative examples of real estate and rental costs in Guam/Hawaii
- Brain drain from the Northern Marianas by those unable to own land?
- NMD corporations as discussed in the 2nd Constitutional Convention
- Aldan-Pierce v. Mafnas
- Wabol v. Muna
- Historic CNMI economy trends under Article XII
- Lease extensions; allowable methods; condominiums

Show B-The Future

- Discussions of Article XII at the 1995 Constitutional Convention, including:
  - Allowing transfers of gift or inheritance to children or grandchildren who are not NMD
  - Adding limitation on related obligations for a landowner in extending a lease beyond 55 years
  - Deleting reference to adopted children in the definition of NMD
  - Imposing a "control" test for determining NMD corporations
- Changing the standards from "void ad initio" to "voidable" to allow courts discretion
- Adding a 6-year statue of limitations
- Adding an office in the Office of the Attorney General to assist landowners, monitor land transactions, and assist in enforcing Article XII
- Pros and cons of land value increases
- SLI 11-1 to propose a constitutional amendment to provide that only persons of NMD can vote on constitutional amendments affecting protections against land alienation and related CNMI and federal court cases.
- Change blood quantum for NMD
- Cultural strengthening
- Preserving the status quo
- Preserving an indigenous homeland
- NMD effects over time
- Living corporate trusts and how they related to probate cases
- Property sales tax for indigenous programs
- Land value study and definition of cultural values

A diversity of representation on the panel is sought, including:

- Positions to retain Article XII, as is
- Positions to amend Article XII
- Positions to abolish Article XII
- Northern Marianas descent
- Non-Northern Marianas descent
- Residents of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands

Interested individuals should submit a short letter stating their interest, background, and position (retain, amend, or abolish Article XII) to the Council by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22. Up to four panelists will be selected for each show. Panelists for Show A will be required to meet on Wednesday, April 24, at 11:30 a.m. at the Council office for a pre-production meeting and be prepared for show taping on Saturday, April 27, from 9-11:30 a.m. Panelists for Show B will meet and tape in May 2013.

For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at 235-4785.

Strong, shallow earthquake shakes PNG

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—A powerful earthquake shook Papua New Guinea's northern coast Wednesday morning, but there was no threat of a widespread tsunami in the Pacific.

The shallow magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck about 19 kilometers (11 miles) east of the small town of Aitape, where disaster authorities have not been able to contact people yet.

It's possible that residents headed to higher ground as soon as they felt the earthquake and were not immediately reachable, said Chris McKee, the assistant director of the Geophysical Observatory in the capital, Port Moresby.

He said there were no reports or indications of a tsunami.

He said people in the town of Vanimo, about 145 kilometers (89 miles) from the epicenter reported they had felt the quake strongly. There were no initial reports of damage or injuries.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said, based on historical data, a quake of this strength has the potential to generate localized tsunamis within 100 kilometers (62 miles) of the epicenter.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was at a depth of 13 kilometers (8 miles), which is relatively shallow. Shallow quakes can potentially cause more damage at the surface.

Papua New Guinea is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

French couple gets married in Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured, from left, are Sen. Brant McCreadie, Stephanie Hofer, Benoit Jullin, and Honorary French Consul Joelle Wainer.

GUAM—On April 16, 2013, Benoit Jullin and Stephanie Hofer were married at Gun Beach in Tumon, Guam. Benoit and Stephanie traveled all the way from Paris, France, to get married in Guam.

Sen. Brant McCreadie, of the 32nd Guam Legislature, performed the sunset ceremony after being approached by the French Consulate here on island.

When asked why the couple decided to get married in Guam and not in what many people argue is the most romantic city in the world, they said: "We wanted to have the wedding somewhere completely opposite of Paris. We looked on the map, and Guam seemed very opposite. Guam is very beautiful and the people have been very friendly."

This is the first time in recent memory, if ever, that a couple from France has flown to Guam to get married. McCreadie said he was honored to officiate the ceremony, and was even more honored to be an impromptu goodwill ambassador for the people of Guam. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Early release today at Kagman High

Kagman High School students will be released at 12pm today, April 18, 2013. KHS teachers and staff will be having accreditation sessions this month. For questions, contact the main office at 237-3834 or 3907. ***(PR)***

MHS PTA meeting today

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Marianas High School PTA meeting today April 18, at 6pm in the Dolphin Theater. The agenda includes finalizing plans for PTA activities, graduation and other important matters affecting our school and our students. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting today, April 18, 2013, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

MMAC proclamation signing today

Marianas March Against Cancer 2013 will be having a proclamation signing today, April 18, 2013, at 10:30am at the DFS Galleria Hallway, Chanel Boutique. ***(PR)***

Kagman High Class of '04 reunion meeting

The Kagman High School Class of 2004 will have a class reunion meeting on May 7, Tuesday, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion, across JP Center Bldg., Garapan, at 6:30pm. All classmates are urged to be present and should also help pass the information to other classmates. For more information or inquiry, email ayuyu2004reunion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on April 23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Labor agricultural and livestock survey

The CNMI Department of Labor will be conducting an agricultural and livestock survey pursuant to a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas is requesting the cooperation and assistance of all farmers to please assist the department's staff in fulfilling this project. For additional information, call Bobbie T. Sablan, Administrative Services manager, at 664-3196. ***(PR)***

013 Visitor Arrival Projections
2004-2005 just prior to the pull-out of JAL
Steady decline through 2011
Strong recovery over the past two years
2013 arrivals at highest levels since pullout of JAL
Total Arrivals into the CNMI

CLARISSA V. DAVID

TOURISM OUTLOOK

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio makes a presentation to members of the Saipan Rotary Club Tuesday on the outlook for tourism this fiscal year. He said the Korean market is "very strong" and is expected to "almost equal" the Japanese market in the CNMI in 2013 as the islands anticipate its largest increase in tourism arrivals.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 18, 2004

Banking bill passes

The 14th CNMI House of Representatives passed Thursday legislation that would update the banking code, secures FDIC membership, and at the same time protect the consumers from any institutions' failures. In a House session held on Tinian, the bill, which was authored by Rep. Ray Yumul, managed to secure a unanimous vote, House spokesman Charles Reyes said. Reyes said House Bill 14-066, the banking bill, proposes to update the CNMI's banking code and protect consumers from bank failures. It was prompted, in part, by Bank of Saipan's difficulties. The bill calls for all banks to secure coverage from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. within the next 10 years.

Ex-governor submits proposed casino bill

Former governor Froilan Tenorio has submitted to the House of Representatives the proposed measure that would allow the establishment of casinos in the Commonwealth. In a letter to House Speaker Benigno dated April 12, Tenorio said the measure is needed to boost the local economy. "We need to increase tourism and provide much needed government revenues. This bill, if approved, would do both. I would appreciate if you would have it introduced and passed expeditiously in the House," Tenorio told Fitial. The proposed bill remains with the Office of the House Speaker and has not been introduced to the floor yet. There was no immediate word yet from Fitial if and when he will have the measure brought to the floor.

Apr. 18, 2005

$4.41M land compensation deal probed

The Attorney General's Office will look into the propriety of the $4.41-million land compensation settlement between the Marianas Public Lands Authority and the Rita Kaipat estate in connection with the government-taking of private land that now forms part of Middle Road. The MPLA, however, vowed to proceed with the disbursement of funds, disclosing that it is in the final stages of the compensation process. The AGO requested the MPLA Friday for copies of documents pertaining to settlement offers and board minutes in relation to the Kaipat estate's claim. In a media statement, the MPLA said that it would comply with the AGO's request pursuant to the Open Government Act.

Terminated Tinian directors appeal case to AGO

Terminated Tinian resident directors Norberto Hofschneider and Ernie Hofschneider went to the Attorney General's Office Friday to appeal their case and demand for their immediate reinstatement. "Everybody on Tinian knows that we were removed for political reasons," said former resident director for Commerce Norberto Hofschneider. He said he has been working for the Tinian government for 16 years including his three consecutive terms as Commerce resident director. "I won't be appointed for three consecutive terms if I'm not being productive," said Norberto, who is a younger brother of Department of Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider.

Apr. 18, 2006

Govt fails to remit retirement obligation

The central government failed to remit its employer contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund for last week's pay period, according to Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes. "They [central government] did not pay the last time. We didn't get it," said Reyes in an interview yesterday. He said the Fund was forced to tap its "local investments" to pay off its retirees' pension. "We're tapping into local investment now, which is very bad," he said. He said the central government is obliged to remit $1.3 million per pay period. However, the Fund has only been getting a much lesser amount in view of the government's fiscal crisis.

Tinian denies FAA 'disapproval' of airport ILS

The Tinian Mayor's Office denied yesterday that the Federal Aviation Administration has disapproved its initial planned purchase of a landing instrument system for Tinian International Airport. At the same time, the mayor's office admits that it is now dealing with a different manufacturer, Thales, which sells ILS that is "preferred" by FAA. The local government earlier met with Radiola, a company that sells the Selix ILS system. The mayor's office took exception to the statement of Commonwealth Ports Authority consultant Carlos H. Salas last week, who said that the Radiola's ILS "is not currently supported by FAA."

Korean visiting Guam attacked by shark, drowned

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Korean tourist who went missing while visiting Guam was attacked by a shark before he drowned, according to findings from an autopsy.

Authorities identified the man as Nae Dok Kim, 40, *Pacific Daily News* reported Monday.

He was last seen on the beach Saturday. Employees of Pacific Islands Club Guam had helped in the search, and lifeguards were asked to look out for any sight of him.

Two fishermen found his remains floating the next day about 20 feet offshore in Tumon Bay.

Both of his legs and his right arm were missing, said Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola. The autopsy showed evidence of bleeding, an indication that his heart was still beating when the attack happened.

"He also drowned, but before he drowned, he was attacked," Espinola said.

"Our prayers go out to the family," said Karl Pangelinan, general manager of the Guam Visitor's Bureau.

While shark attacks are not common for Guam, the tourist was likely attacked while swimming over the edge of the reef, where there are larger sharks, said Terry Donaldson, a professor at University of Guam's marine laboratory. Sharks that could have caused his injuries are usually in deeper water, but tiger sharks have been seen moving into shallower water at night, Donaldson said.

In 2009, a 3 1/2-foot blacktip reef shark bit a fisherman. The shark had been impaled by three spears and was fighting as it was being carried to shore. In 2006, a Japanese tourist was diving when he was scraped on the arm by the teeth of a 13-foot tiger shark.

Rescue 21 aids Guam rescue

APRA HARBOR, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Sector search and rescue watchstanders received a notification over the phone of a disabled vessel north of Ritidian Point Sunday morning.

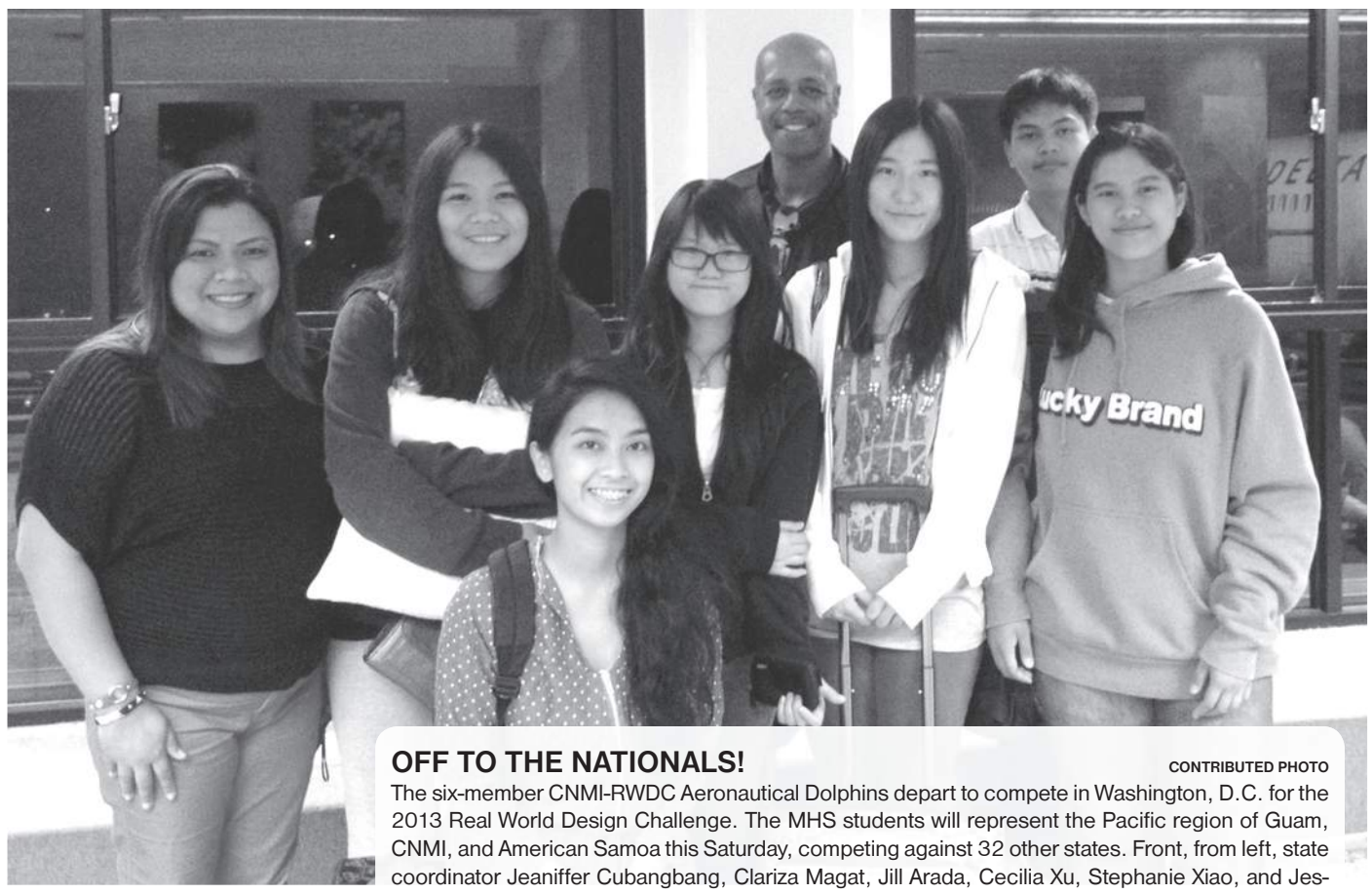
Using the Rescue 21 communication system, the rescue coordination center made call outs to the vessel in order to confirm distress and obtain a location.

When the mariner responded to the call out on the vessel's installed radio, Rescue 21 pinpointed the location of vessel within a half nautical mile of their actual location, greatly reducing the search time.

A Response Boat-Medium was launched from U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, quickly located the vessel, and safely towed the two passengers and their vessel back to Agana Boat Basin.

"In order for mariners to take full advantage of the improved capabilities Rescue 21 brings to our region, mariners must have a radio on board tuned to Channel 16," stated Lt j.g. Rich Russell, Coast Guard Sector Guam public affairs officer. "Today the system has been put to the test and succeeded, allowing us to rapidly launch a rescue crew to the right location".

Aptly dubbed "911 for mariners", Rescue 21 enhances clarity of distress calls, upgrades the playback and recording feature of distress calls, is interoperable with local agency communication systems, and adds a direction finding capability that will help search and rescue watchstanders pinpoint the source of the distress call out on the water. ***(USCG)***



OFF TO THE NATIONALS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The six-member CNMI-RWDC Aeronautical Dolphins depart to compete in Washington, D.C. for the 2013 Real World Design Challenge. The MHS students will represent the Pacific region of Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa this Saturday, competing against 32 other states. Front, from left, state coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang, Clariza Magat, Jill Arada, Cecilia Xu, Stephanie Xiao, and Jessica Bigueras. Behind, from left, team coach John Rualerson and John Paul Aglubat.

Tobacco cos. make payments under state settlement

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)—The top U.S. cigarette companies have made their payments as part of the long-standing settlement in which some cigarette makers are paying states for smoking-related health care costs.

Philip Morris USA, America's largest cigarette maker owned by Altria Group Inc., said Monday that it made its full annual payment of about $3.1 billion as part of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement.

The Richmond-based maker of Marlboro, Virginia Slims and Parliament cigarettes said the payment includes about $203 million that it says it doesn't owe that was deposited into a separate account and will try to get back through negotiations or arbitration.

No. 2 R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., owned by Reynolds American Inc., based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, paid $1.84 billion this year. The maker of Camel, Pall Mall, Kool and other brands deposited a portion it disputes—$461 million—into a separate account, as allowed under the settlement.

No. 3 Lorillard Inc., Greensboro, North Carolina-based maker of Newport, True and Maverick brand cigarettes, paid $900 million this year, including $115 million it disputes.

Philip Morris USA said it has paid more than $62 billion under the settlement and previous agreements since 1997. RJR has paid more than $30 billion under the agreements, and Lorillard has paid about $15 billion.

As part of the landmark settlement to reimburse states for smoking-related health care costs, participating tobacco product manufacturers agreed to make billions in payments to 46 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the District of Columbia over more than two decades. States first received full payments under the settlement in 1999. It was estimated that the companies would pay about $206 billion over 25 years.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice – Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting on Friday, April 19, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Call to the Audience

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Option to lease CHCC Parcel 1 described as Lot No. 098 D 04 and Parcel 02, described as Lot No. 098 D 05 in connection with the construction of a federal building.
- B. Employment of CEO Juan N. Babauta

VII. OLD BUSINESS
- A. CEO Recruitment Update

VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
- A. Employment of CEO Juan N. Babauta

IX. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Next Meeting
- B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-018

RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION STUDY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for a Renewable Energy Integration Study for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The focus of this Renewable Energy Integration Study will be:

- To determine how much variable renewable energy (Solar PV and Wind) can CUC economically integrate into its grid?
- To investigate the operational impact - at penetration levels ranging from 10% to 50% - for Solar PV and Wind generation.

A Power System Analysis software with a Renewable Energy module will be purchased and installed on CUC computers for grid studies and operations. The contractor will recommend and install the software on computers provided by CUC. The contractor will model CUC's grid and carry out related Load-flow, Short Circuit, Stability (dynamic and transient), Transient and Protection analysis, as well as simulations.

The study should address these questions:

1. What is the impact of up to 50% variable renewable energy penetration and how can this be accommodated?
2. How much Solar PV or Wind generation can be connected on any of CUC's 13.8KV distribution feeders? Can geographic diversity or distributed generation will help mitigate variability?
3. How spinning reserve should be modified to account for the variability in Wind and Solar PV generation. What is the additional cost of spinning due to this variability?
4. What is the increased O&M cost of diesel generators due to increased ramping and cycling?
5. What are the Short Circuit levels and currents at interconnection points on the grid?
6. What are the supply quality problems; including voltage stability /collapse and frequency fluctuations?

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on April 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-018,Renewable Energy Integration Study",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 77

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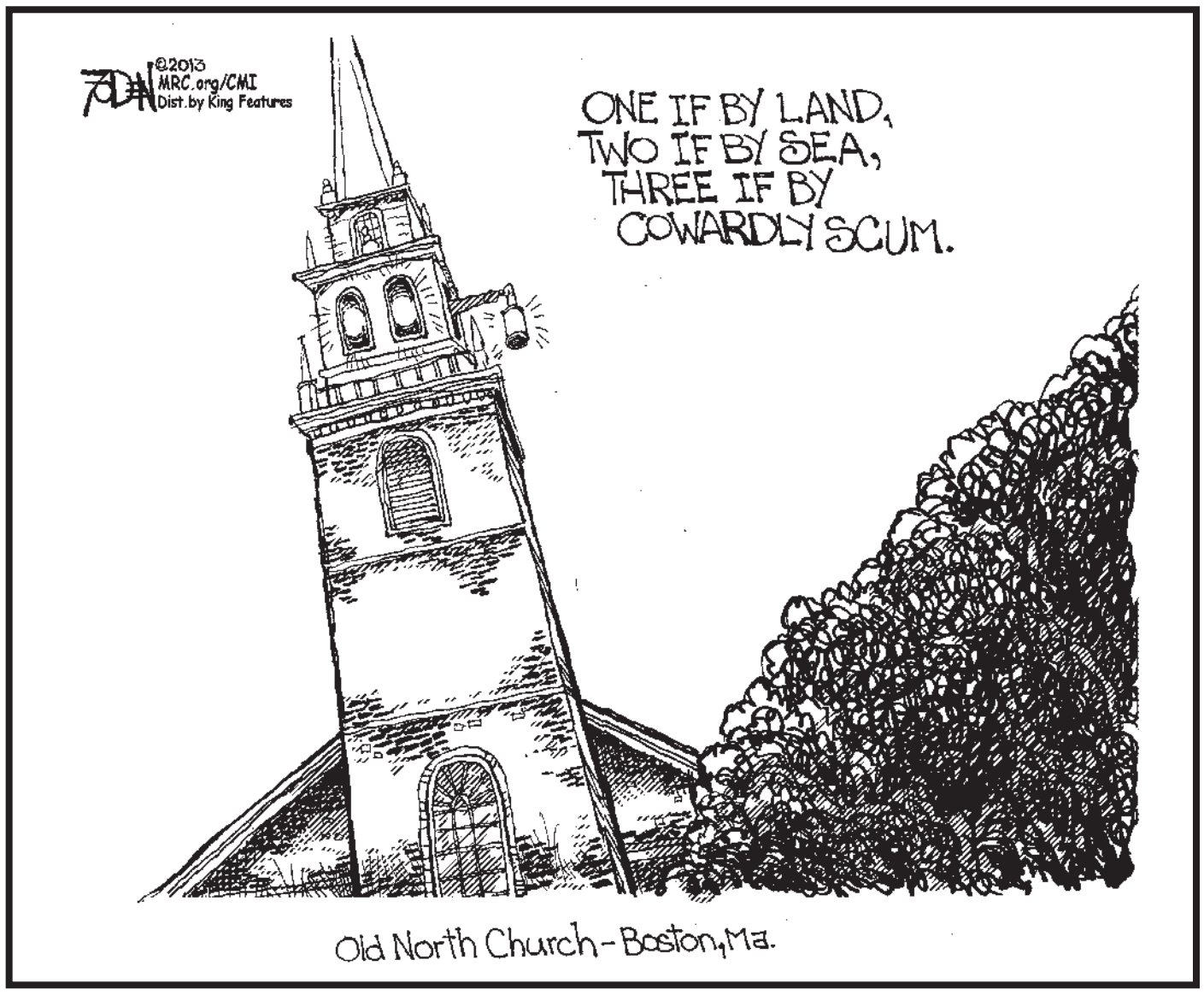

EDITORIAL

Heartbreak at the finish line

The Boston Marathon is a rite of spring in New England, one of the great festive days of the year. Many's the time we've gone up early for the Red Sox game and then walked over to Kenmore Square to watch the runners scoot or struggle past. The city is jammed with millions of happy people.

That someone would wreak death on this event stretches the bounds of sick behavior—yet again.

Witnesses inside the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel heard booms that sounded like thunder near the finish line. Crying, bleeding people fled the scene while emergency crews tended to victims. There was blood on the ground near the finish line.

At this writing, three people are dead and more than 140 injured—including some with lost limbs—after two bombs went off near the finish line. The ordnance suggests a possible terrorist attack. Who would do such a thing—and why—is still a mystery.

We don't know if the perpetrators are foreign or domestic, but it is nonetheless hard not to think this country does need a higher level of mental health screening. Just four months after the massacre of 20 children and six educators at a school in our state, it is sad and frustrating to see another senseless attack in a neighboring state, at an event that draws countless Connecticut runners and spectators.

Now is the time to get engaged, as the people for whom Patriots Day is named did, and focus on security, on community and on individual freedom. Enough.

(c) 2013 The Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.)

Running for their lives

Sports and games serve as peaceful proxies for war, made possible by the absence of actual hostilities; think the Olympics or the Fischer-Spassky Cold War chess championship. That is part of what makes an act of violence against an athletic event so deeply sickening: It shows the best impulses of humans undone by their worst.

Monday's apparent attack on the Boston Marathon was replete with such distressing juxtapositions. Participants were photographed running toward an explosion in the moment that the glorious sight of the finish line was transformed into a savage crime scene that people fled. And a celebration of the human body's hard-won capabilities was ended by a heedless assault on its vulnerabilities.

Despite the modern speed of communication, it will take time for the details and origins of the Boston blasts to become known. What seemed clear Monday night was that three were killed and dozens more were hurt, some grievously, by a pair of explosions near the finish line. They took place seconds apart and about four hours into the race, with more than 4,000 of about 23,000 starters still running.

The attack set in motion an all-too-familiar pattern: the flurry of instantaneous though not always informative reports; the flood of attempted connections with loved ones temporarily overwhelming the technology that enables such communications; the fruitless efforts to fathom such a thing.

For all the dreadful practice we've had responding to such horrors, we've had much more trying to prevent them, particularly at crowded entertainment and sporting events. But marathons also work against such precautions by their nature, stretching across 26.2 miles and involving thousands of athletes and spectators along the route.

See RUNNING on Next Page

The blasts heard around the world

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

It was a commemorative Monday in one of the world's famous city marathons. Held on Patriots' Day, a Massachusetts' holiday, it remembers events of 1775 in Concord and Lexington when the American Revolution broke out. The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest marathon event, first ran in 1897 with 18 entries. It registered 27,000 runners this year.

It also remembered the 26 victims in the Newtown, Connecticut Sandy Hook School shooting massacre as the run measures 26.2 miles and a set marker on the 26th mile was made to remind the participants of the tragedy not too long ago in a neighboring state.

Most participants are recreational runners, in the race for the challenge of making it to the end of the line while friends and loved ones cheer on, and basking in personal accomplishments. While athleticism is on display, and the Boston marathon requires qualifying times along with experience in another run within a year-and-a-half, the sheer fun of participation is also wildly evident. Recalling previous Aloha runs in Oahu, the levity of such run fests is contagious!

Two hours into the first crossing at the finish line, when many of the participants were finally making it, was when two blasts occurred 10 seconds apart. Three were pronounced dead, including an 8-year old child who was cheering on Daddy to the finish line.

Barricades and yellow tapes sprouted quickly as security officials reacted in the manner they were trained. The knowledgeable grabbed tourniquets, as amputations suddenly became the medical order of the day!

The soul of a nation is laid bare, and already the accusation of the hideous act of terrorism, domestic or foreign, is echoed in legislative chambers even without solid evidence of any kind. AP reached the Taliban in Pakistan and the group immediately disowned any association with the incident.

Another incident that may or may not be related was a blast at the JFK library. Two other bombs at the marathon were found and defused. No group so far has laid claim to the perpetuation of the deadly assault on an erstwhile peaceful and fun-filled celebration.

We write from outside the sovereign territories of the United States, and though we have access to the wire services of Western media, we also scour the response of local news sources.

China Daily reports a female student at Boston U in a coma at a hospital as one of the 140 casualties. Seventeen females out of 87 Chinese runners between 20 to 65 years old were registered, according to organizers. There are no pro marathoners. The paper's reporting focused on the objective facts, in the same vein as it informed its reading audience the recent devastating tremors in Iran and Iraq at more than 7 points in the Richter scale; another of lesser intensity was around New Delhi in India.

Other colleagues, while lamenting the seeming senselessness of the Boston blasts, point out also without the heavy-handed weight of judgment and condemnation the numerous effects on innocent lives of our unending use of drones in our military engagements in South Central Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East.

The recent incessant demonization of the DPRK and a possible nuclear strike on U.S. forces, including those in the Marianas, based on regular Pyongyang bellicosity, now makes sense as SoKor recently announced a financial stimulus package to help boost the won against the weakening yen and the indeterminate yuan. I bet on increased defense spending.

To the Obama administration's credit, when the news media carried the allegation of a defense intelligence agency's accusation that DPRK "possibly" has nuclear capabilities, the Pentagon quickly disowned the report and claimed that any such judgment, on the basis of evidence, is "inaccurate."

Which brings us back to Boston. Obama has not been a favorite of patriotic elements in the country, often accused of being a foreigner and Muslim out to sell the nation's security down the drain. The nation's debate on gun control legislation after the gut-wrenching effect of Sandy Hook and other tragedies was very revealing of the level of vitriol leveled against the White House.

Knowing of the critical impact of symbolic gestures, the patriotic focus of Patriots' Day is not lost on those of us who have distance enough to see how something like Sept. 11, and the 911 as an emergency call signal, was laid on a nation taking advantage of the exploitation of other people's resources. Dick Cheney's drool on Iraqi oil is now confirmed by one of his own former aides.

We might say that the Boston blasts is a cruel demonstration of certain elements in our society out to show that Boston and Massachusetts cannot prevail as the dominant ethos of a country attempting to leave its signature as a liberal and progressive "beacon on a hill" to the rest of the world.

Over photos sent on the Net of two men assisting each other to save a sheep in a raging river only to be followed by lamb chops being barbecued on the grill, we said, "it is a character of our times to mistake skepticism and cynicism as witty."

There is nothing witty about the Boston blasts, and if attempts are made to symbolize it as patriotic, we have turned into cruel folks, indeed.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An act of terror turns a family's glorious day grotesque and unthinkable

By BUD WITHERS
THE SEATTLE TIMES

BOSTON—This is how celebrations of the human spirit end in the 21st century:

Police sirens wail and aid cars scream to their destinations. TV stations interrupt regular programming and reporters describe limbs blown from bodies. The President delivers a hasty address on the latest act of terrorism.

Monday, this was Boston, when a gloriously sunny day, brisk and just a little breezy—near perfect for the running of the 117th Boston Marathon—turned grotesque and unthinkable. This time, the killers didn't just get innocents, they managed to dial up a brutal incongruity. They made a day of triumph for so many of the 27,000 competitors one that will forever be recalled for its tragedy.

We came back here to see our son Brett, a former runner at Gonzaga University, run his second marathon. Several of us gathered on Heartbreak Hill, another a mile from the finish line downtown.

Like a lot of runners, my son approached the event with a religious ferocity, training through the most begrudging parts of a Seattle winter, watching what he ate, intent on maximizing.

On Heartbreak Hill, he was fairly breezing, and the electricity of the event—a course solid with spectators for 26 miles—lifted him through the sag of the last several miles. He ran 2 hours, 34 minutes, 7 seconds, 111th among males.

My sister and I wove through a neighborhood near Boston College to catch a train six miles east into the city for a post-finish rendezvous. It took a seventh train before we could squeeze on.

Downtown, we hit Boylston Street, where four-hour runners were coming in. Near the finish, the sidewalks were stifling, onlookers a few deep and foot traffic both ways. We came to a stand of VIP bleachers. In about 20 minutes, those people would be rocked by explosions in front of them.

By then, we'd made our way to a bar called Clery's on a cross-street, Dartmouth, maybe three blocks away. Downstairs, Brett was forcing fluids with a couple of old college roomies. It was a sprawling place, crammed with runners and supporters and the glow of celebration.

"Look," somebody said. A big-screen TV behind us had the dreaded label, "Breaking News." Bombs in Copley Square. Dismembered bodies. Crazily, the soundtrack to the video initially stayed hooked up to a country-and-western song for several minutes before they sync'd up the news audio to the TV.

Suddenly the party was over. People looked vacantly at each other. A Samuel Adams "26.2"—brewed in honor of the marathon—sat untouched.

An hour after the bombings, the streets were thick with uncertainty. Cellphone service was interrupted for fear the perpetrators were using them to orchestrate more violence, panicking callers concerned for those in the area.

Fire trucks and ambulances and police cars roared through every street near the finish. This, while runners made their way gingerly down sidewalks, wrapped in insulating space blankets.

Some train service was suspended for a couple of hours. Transportation personnel kept cool, handled inquiries with aplomb and nobody got charged for riding a bus or a train.

It wasn't the first time terrorism had struck a sporting event. Arab terrorists stormed the Olympic Village in 1972 and eventually killed 11 Israelis. There was the bomb detonated at Centennial Park at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

But sports has generally been apart from such evil, remarkably so, given 80,000-seat football stadiums and the often-relaxed security. I carry a bag with four pouches and can't count the times one of them gets searched, three go unchecked and you're waved through.

Now we were headed south to Rhode Island. A brilliant red-orange sunset painted the western sky. Four and a half hours after the explosions turned a magical day macabre, I realized I didn't know who had won the race.

Bud Withers is a columnist for the Seattle Times.

Once again, Americans deal with it

By GREG COTE
THE MIAMI HERALD

The heartache's name might be terrorism, an evil plot of many, or the heartache might spring from a single deranged mind at work in a movie theater, or in an elementary school. The heartache might claim thousands of innocent lives or it might claim dozens or it might claim two, but, no matter the particulars, here we were once more on Monday, America, doing what we do:

Dealing with it.

Shaking heads and wiping tears.

Dealing with it.

One hand covering our mouths in shock, the other making a fist in outrage.

Dealing with it.

Trying to make sense of what is senseless.

Again.

This time it revolved around sports, ostensibly, although, of course, it didn't. The Boston Marathon was the target, but the real target was an American institution. The real target was our shared peace of mind, our sense of security.

The Boston Bruins postponed Monday night's home game out of respect for the tragedy's victims. Locally, Dolphins stadium officials postponed an announcement about a soccer tournament. This story wasn't about sports, though, any more than Newtown was about schools. This is part of the American story now and will continue to be.

It is about vigilance, and resolve. It is about getting back up, always.

The heartache might be orchestrated and come from continents away. It might be random and come from up the street. The blood runs the same.

This time, two bombs exploded near the finish line, probably sounding for just an instant like the fireworks that might celebrate something. But this awful noise killed at least three people and injured many more. This awful noise severed limbs, according to the terrible reports.

People screamed. Blood stained the pavement. We saw footage of people screaming and running.

Chaos.

We saw first responders going to work.

Patricia Soden, 51, of Hollywood, Fla., had finished the race just before the first explosion. She and her husband Bert, who also competed, are both OK.

"All of a sudden there was this horrendous explosion. My heart stopped," she told *The Miami Herald.* "Terrifying."

Kristen Craig, the twin sister of Miami Heat assistant coach Dan Craig, was on Mile 21 when the bombings took place. Said Dan Craig, "She was rattled, but she's OK."

Race organizers had set up a medical tent to treat the usual marathon stuff. Fatigue. Dehydration. There were water bottles on ice and sliced oranges in bowls.

That medical tent would be needed Monday in the most unimaginable, horrible way.

Two other unexploded bombs were found nearby. An incident five miles away at Boston's JFK Library was reported.

There were obvious suspicions of terrorism, of what could turn out to be the biggest attempt at mass killings on U.S. soil since 9/11.

We have seen this before. Felt this before.

It happened to be Boston this time. It could have been our town. The thing about terrorism is that no matter where it happens, it feels like our town, doesn't it? Viscerally? Our hearts go out like it was.

If adversity tests and toughens a man or a woman, then it must work collectively on a country.

Well, America keeps getting stronger, folks.

They keep trying to knock us down. We keep getting back up, our eyes a little sharper and our hide a little harder, but hopefully not our hearts, though.

A marathon this time! Can you imagine?

This was our oldest such race, in our most historic city. This was Patriots' Day. Some 25,000 runners were competing, lined up at the start and thinking of nothing more than maybe setting a personal-best time, or even just finishing the race at all.

A marathon might be the most intensely personal challenge of any sport.

Is a body really made to run 26.2 miles? To some, it is an almost spiritual calling. Bigger than just running.

You want to say the finish line of a marathon is just about the last place you would expect such a thing as this to occur, but you stop yourself. Because where should you expect such a horrible thing? During a Batman movie? In a skyscraper office building? At an elementary school? Anywhere ?

Monday's Boston Marathon had begun with 26 seconds of silence in honor of the Sandy Hook Elementary victims.

The 26-mile marker, near the finish line where the bombs blew, had been decorated with the city seal of Newton, Conn.

To expect the unspeakable anywhere is insane, an affront to civilization.

To expect it anywhere to the degree we fear it anywhere, any time, means we have conceded something precious and irreplaceable.

So we do what we do.

We mourn the latest innocent victims who might have been us.

We damn the latest coward killers.

And then we get back up, somehow just a little bit stronger.

We deal with it.

Greg Cote is a columnist for the **Miami Herald***, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. Readers may write to him via email at gcote@MiamiHerald.com.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Zero tolerance laws

Like a chameleon, the drug crystal methamphetamine goes by many names but one fact remains: It is illegal to manufacture, import, distribute, sell, possess, or use this drug. It is not a victimless drug for it has affected or destroyed families, careers, and lives of so many.

We who call the CNMI home have had enough of the tolerance and indifference in our community toward those who deal or use this illegal drug. And our laws have done little to deter crimes as a result of this drug. Crystal meth has been responsible for countless home invasions, robberies, murder, familial breakups, and other social problems that continue unabated today.

In order to remove this drug from our midst we need in-your-face laws with provisions that have a permanent effect against this drug and those who associate with it.

We need the 18th Legislature to introduce a bill that will empower the law enforcement agencies and our judicial system in this quest. We need a no-nonsense, zero tolerance law that, among other things, mandates property confiscation for personal properties used in the commission of a crime related to this drug.

Mandatory minimum sentencing should be part of the package. Residents and tourists have the right to be safe in the CNMI. Criminals do not.

While on this subject, all elected and appointed representatives and officials should lead by example and undergo initial plus routine and random drug testing. Better yet, our central and local governments should enforce random drug testing for all personnel and enforce drug control policies. Again, zero tolerance should be the rule, not the exception.

Another thing: Why not have laws that mandate the deportation of nonresidents upon release from prison for any felony-related offenses? We have had far too many from other countries and Micronesia who continue to enjoy our islands despite criminal convictions. These shores are not a safe haven for those who willfully break the law.

We need to either proactively seek out and engage the criminals and their activities with everything we can legally muster or amend our laws to protect citizens who take actions to deter crimes or protect their families from criminals. Not doing anything is tolerance and tolerance makes us all complicit.

It is apparent that we have a system that promotes a revolving-door policy that puts up with criminals who routinely get imprisoned then released, only to commit crimes again. Kind of a shame, really.

Thanks for reading.

Noel S. Reyes
Dandan, Saipan

RUNNING

From Page 10

The marathon is no exception to the relationship among war, peace, and sports. The original marathon of legend carried news of a battle's end; Boston's, the world's oldest annual marathon, takes place on Patriots' Day, commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Even in the wake of such a disheartening act of modern violence, it's important to remember that terrorism remains fortunately rare in this country, and that a peaceful, functional civilization represents its ultimate defeat. Despite their obvious security challenges, marathons have only become dramatically more popular in the United States, their participation more than doubling to about half a million over the past two decades. That is still for the best.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

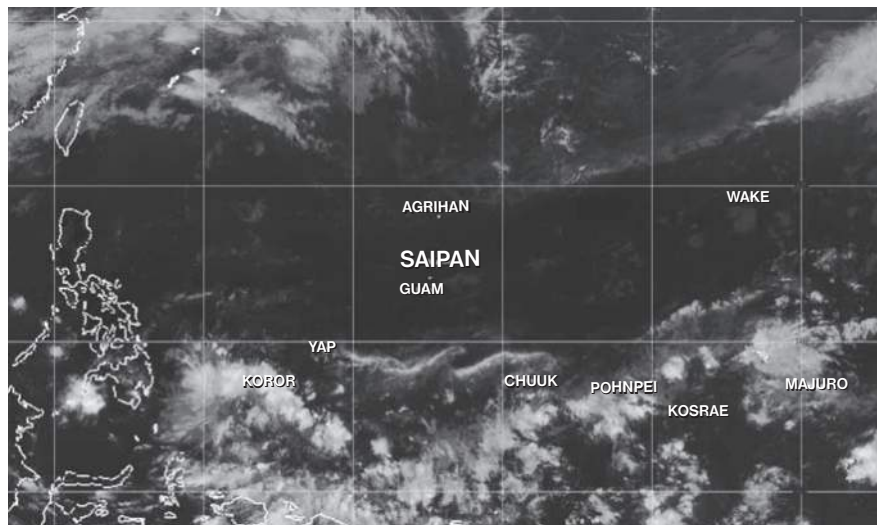
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲58	▼40
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
London	Windy	▲56	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72	▼53
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲95	▼81
Melbourne	Rain	▲61	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼51
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼51
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼45
Rome	Sunny	▲73	▼54
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼38
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼58

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E to 19N150E then continues as a shear line to 19N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the cold front as far west as 167E otherwise ,cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front and shear line. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from 4N130E to EQ138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of a line from 9N130E to just north of Koror at 8N135E to 4N140E. This includes Palau. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with a series of weak inverted surface troughs are occurring within 100 miles of a line from EQ143E to 9N163E including Pohnpei but south of Chuuk and north of Kosrae. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms across Kwajalein and Majuro in the area bounded by 12N166E to 6N173E to 6N166E back to 12N166E. Another trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Tarawa eastward within 100 miles of a line from 1N172E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
12:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:50 AM	12:06 AM
Friday	12:40 PM	12:32 AM
Saturday	1:30 PM	1:32 AM
Sunday	2:21 PM	2:13 AM
Monday	3:13 PM	2:54 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Business

Criticism of immigration bill from left and right

WASHINGTON (AP)—To some conservatives, it's amnesty.

To some immigration advocates, it's unnecessarily punitive.

The Senate's new bipartisan immigration bill drew criticism from the right and from the left Tuesday—convincing members of the bipartisan "Gang of Eight" that wrote it that they're on the right track.

"This has something for everybody to hate," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.

Said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.: "No one gets everything they want."

Schumer and another leader of the effort, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., met with President Barack Obama on Tuesday to brief him on the bill, a top second-term priority for the president. Obama issued a statement after the meeting supporting the Senate effort and urging action.

"This bill is clearly a compromise, and no one will get everything they wanted, including me. But it is largely consistent with the principles that I have repeatedly laid out for comprehensive reform," Obama said. "I urge the Senate to quickly move this bill forward and, as I told Sens. Schumer and McCain, I stand willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that comprehensive immigration reform becomes a reality as soon as possible."

The legislation would dramatically remake the U.S. immigration system, ushering in new visa programs for low- and high-skilled workers, requiring a tough new focus on border security, instituting a new requirement for all employers to check the legal status of their workers, and installing a path to citizenship for 11 million immigrants in the country illegally.

The U.S. immigration system would shift from emphasizing family ties to U.S. citizens or permanent residents in determining who can come to this country, to putting a much bigger focus on their skills or employment opportunities. People who've been deported would have the opportunity to come back to the U.S. if their spouses or children are in the country.

Senators were aiming to file the legislation Tuesday night, and were prepared to keep the Senate floor open late to accommodate that goal. But a press event to roll the bill out was delayed until later in the week after the bombings at the Boston marathon. Nonetheless, outside groups and other senators already had plenty to say.

To some on the left, the details of the path to citizenship were emerging as a concern. It would take 13 years, the first 10 of those in a provisional legal status during which immigrants would not have access to federal benefits. Immigrants would have to pay $2,000 in fines plus hundreds more in fees, and outstanding taxes. No one with a felony conviction or more than three misdemeanors would be eligible, and no one who entered the country after Dec. 31, 2011, could apply.

AP

Cristian Paniagua, 11, of Takoma Park, Md., left, holds a U.S. flag next to a child holding the flag of El Salvador as they attend the "Rally for Citizenship" on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, April 10, 2013, where tens of thousands of immigrants and their supporters were expected to rally for immigration reform in Washington, on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

China's struggle to measure economy clouds outlook

BEIJING (AP)—After China reported quarterly economic growth of 7.7 percent this week—far above anemic U.S. and European performance—global markets reacted by falling, wiping billions of dollars off stock prices.

The reason? Growth came in under the 8 percent expected by private sector forecasters who relied on Chinese trade and other data.

The market plunge highlighted complaints about the possible inaccuracy of Beijing's official data and the intense, possibly excessive importance traders attach to a handful of Chinese economic indicators.

What matters more than a difference of a few tenths of a percentage point in growth from quarter to quarter is whether Chinese leaders are allowing the private sector to flourish by reducing the role of state industry in the economy, said Ben Simpfendorfer, managing director of Silk Road Associates, a consulting firm in Hong Kong.

"There is an obsession with these GDP numbers, and what really matters at this point is reform," said Simpfendorfer, a former Royal Bank of Scotland economist.

China is watched especially closely because it is a major market for foreign goods from iron ore to smartphones and is relatively healthy, fueling hopes Chinese demand can help offset weakness in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

Confusion about how fast China is growing can hamper foreign and private companies in industries from construction to chemicals to consumer goods as they make plans for business and investment.

Beijing's problems in keeping track of its economy stem in part from the fact that while it is surpassed only by the United States in size, China is growing and changing much faster than any rich country.

An understaffed bureaucracy inherited from the era of central planning is struggling to keep up with changes in trade, finance, manufacturing and city growth. Chinese companies have an incentive to avoid taxes or boost export rebates by misreporting sales and profits. Secrecy surrounding the collection and processing of official statistics leaves open the possibility they might be altered for political reasons.

Foreign and private companies look at government data with skepticism. Many rely on watching their own industries and markets more closely. The government still is the only source for most nationwide data, but a growing number of banks and research firms are developing their own based on surveys of companies and consumers.

USAID head says food aid changes are urgent

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the Obama administration's international food aid efforts says a proposal to shift the way food is delivered abroad could help an additional 4 million starving people. But there doesn't appear to be much support for the idea on Capitol Hill.

Rajiv Shah, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, said Tuesday that the system of shipping U.S.-grown food abroad has been inefficient and that changes are necessary as a humanitarian crisis in Syria and recent droughts in Africa sap food aid from other countries in need.

The United States now donates much of its food aid by shipping homegrown food overseas, but many aid groups have long argued that buying food abroad would be quicker, less expensive and more beneficial to local farmers. The Obama administration last week proposed shifting food aid money to more flexible accounts that allow for cash purchases abroad or from U.S. farmers, saying such a move would be more efficient.

"We are stretched to our absolute limits precisely at a time when we don't expect to receive any supplemental funding," Shah said in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press. "If we don't do this, the consequences will be very severe in a very human, very real way."

Shah said that buying food locally is often the only practical option in war-torn countries where trucking in large amounts of food is not safe. Only a small portion of the U.S. food aid budget allows for cash purchases abroad, and most of that money right now is going to aid people in Syria—diverting funds from other needy people in unstable countries.

Congress would have to approve such a shift in resources, and the Obama administration is hoping that its proposal will resonate not only with those lawmakers with an interest in food aid but also those looking to cut spending or those with a faith-based concern for starving people overseas.

American cancels all US flights for several hours

DALLAS (AP)—A computer system used to run many daily operations at American Airlines failed Tuesday, forcing the nation's third-largest carrier to ground all flights across the United States for several hours and stranding thousands of frustrated passengers at airports and on planes.

Flights already in the air were allowed to continue to their destinations, but planes on the ground from coast to coast could not take off. And travelers could do little to get back in the air until the computer system was restored.

American blamed its reservation system, which is used for much more than booking flights. Airlines commonly rely on such systems to track passengers and bags, update flight schedules and gate assignments and file flight plants. The computers also help determine how much fuel to put in an aircraft or which seats should be filled to balance a plane.

The failure caused cascading delays and cancelations nationwide.

As of mid-afternoon, American and its American Eagle offshoot canceled more than 700 flights, and another 765 flights were delayed, according to tracking service FlightAware.

The outage began in midmorning and stretched into the afternoon. The systems were fixed by 4:30 p.m., airline spokeswoman Stacey Frantz said.

But even as some flights took off, the airline expected delays and cancellations to persist for the rest of the day.

At airports, customers whose flights were canceled couldn't rebook on a later flight. Passengers already at the airport were stuck in long lines or killed time in gate areas.

"Tensions are high. A lot of people are getting mad. I've seen several yelling at the American agents," said Julie Burch, a business-meeting speaker who was stuck at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport waiting for a flight to Denver. "Nobody can tell us anything."

Terry Anzur, a TV news consultant from Los Angeles who was also stranded in Dallas, said American Airlines gate employees were doing everything the old-fashioned, manual way because their computers were useless. "No one at the counter can do anything. They can't check people in," Anzur said. "The airline is at a dead halt."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,756.78	1,574.57	3,264.63
+157.58	+22.21	+48.14
+1.08%	+1.43%	+1.50%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9653	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7622	Philippine Peso	41.31
British Pound	0.651	Indian Rupee	55.2275	Singapore Dollar	1.2332
Canadian Dollar	1.0226	Indonesian Rupiah	9721	South Korean Won	1118
Chinese Yuan	6.1727	Japanese Yen	98.334	Swiss Franc	0.9229
Euro	0.7588	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0285	Taiwan Dollar	29.848
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1806	Thailand Baht	28.95

Nation

Pressure cookers help make good bombs—and clues

WASHINGTON (AP)—In kitchens, they prepare food faster, but pressure cookers by their very nature help make good bombs, amplifying the blast and the carnage.

They don't just hold the explosives. The tightly sealed pot that speeds the cooking of beans and meat makes easier to obtain weaker explosives faster and stronger. And they may also help investigators find out who built the deadly homemade bombs that exploded at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

Investigators found fragments of BBs and nails, possibly contained in a pressure cooker, said Richard DesLauriers, the FBI agent in charge in Boston. He said the items were sent for analysis.

If a pressure cooker was used, it probably cost around $100 to construct, say former federal forensic and explosive investigators. It's like a pipe bomb but bigger and more powerful.

Pressure cooker bombs are more often used in Afghanistan, Pakistan India, and Nepal—where the pots are more commonly used for cooking. But they have also been prominent in bombings and attempts in the United States, especially in New York in Times Square in 2010 and Grand Central Terminal in 1976.

In Al Qaeda's online magazine, there's even an article titled: "Make a bomb in the kitchen of your mom" by "The AQ Chef." It mentions, even recommends, pressure cookers, noting that weak explosives only work with the high pressure of a cooker or sealed pipe.

Low power explosives like black power and smokeless powder—the most likely ones used in Boston—blow up at a slower rate and only deliver the big boom if they are confined and the pressure from the gas and explosion builds up, said Denny Kline, a former FBI explosives expert and instructor in forensics at its academy.

Kline and other ex-government experts who have no role in the investigation differ about what type of explosive may have been used and some refuse to even speculate what kind.

The pressure cookers are a key first piece in a painstaking detective process. The sound of the explosion is a clue. The color of the flash—yellow—and smoke—white—are clues. So is the size of any crater and the distance fragments flew. Even the smell can give a seasoned investigator a good idea of what explosive was used, Kline said.

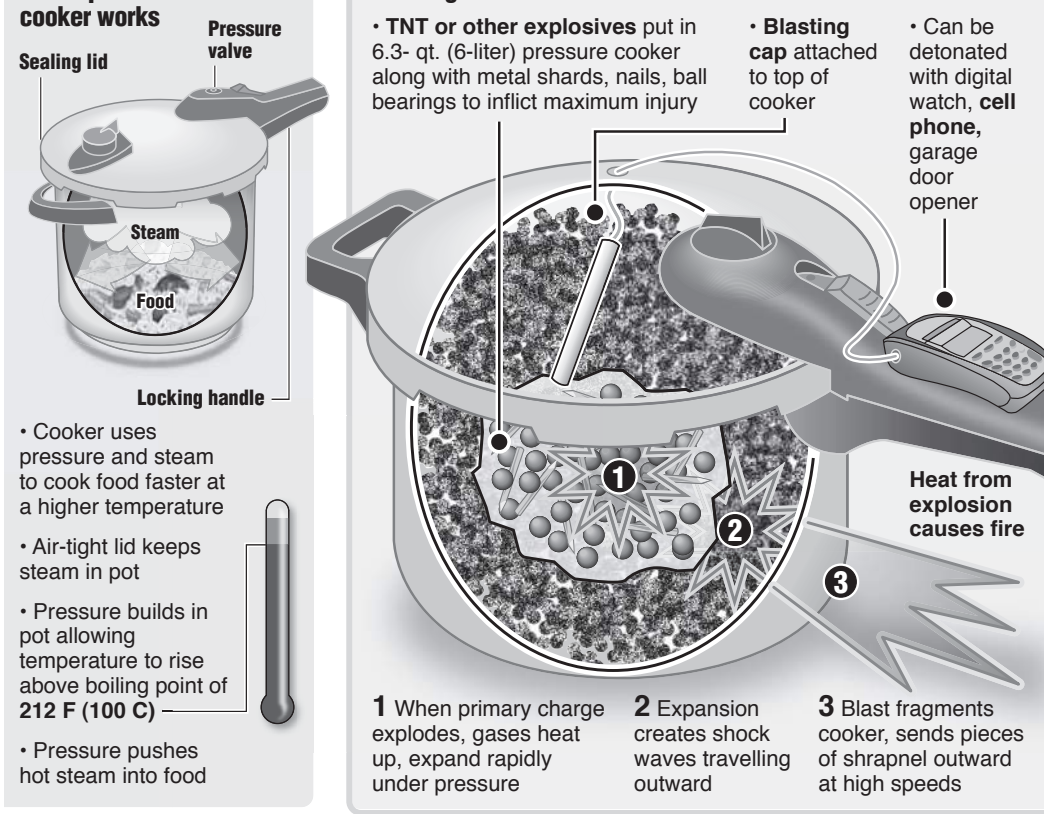
"We basically try to create a model for what the bomb looked like," said Matthew Horace, a former special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "Investigating bombs is like a puzzle."

Piece by piece, forensic investigators now have to put together what came apart with an explosive force of thousands of feet per second: The bombs themselves.

"It's going to change its appearance and its form, but it's going to remain," said Kline. "It'll be broken up into lots of little pieces, but it's not going to evaporate."

A pressure cooker bomb

Investigators say the bombs detonated at the Boston Marathon were made using a pressure cooker; how a common kitchen utensil becomes deadly:


How a pressure cooker works
Sealing lid
Pressure valve
Steam
Food
Locking handle
• Cooker uses pressure and steam to cook food faster at a higher temperature
• Air-tight lid keeps steam in pot
• Pressure builds in pot allowing temperature to rise above boiling point of 212 F (100 C)
• Pressure pushes hot steam into food
Building a bomb
• TNT or other explosives put in 6.3- qt. (6-liter) pressure cooker along with metal shards, nails, ball bearings to inflict maximum injury
• Blasting cap attached to top of cooker
• Can be detonated with digital watch, cell phone, garage door opener
Heat from explosion causes fire
1 When primary charge explodes, gases heat up, expand rapidly under pressure
2 Expansion creates shock waves travelling outward
3 Blast fragments cooker, sends pieces of shrapnel outward at high speeds
Why bombs like this can maim
• Police say explosives used in Boston traveled under 3,300 feet per second (1,005 meters per second), but fast enough to propel shrapnel a long distance
• Shrapnel, debris can cause penetrating wounds, blunt injury
• Force of blast can knock people down, throw them in the air, break bones, amputate limbs, cause brain trauma
Earlier uses
• Pressure cooker bombs used in India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and 2010 Times Square bombing attempt
Source: AP, How Stuff Works, FastCooking.ca, NBC News, SemperMax Support Fund
Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell
© 2013 MCT

Senate plans background check vote Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate set a long-awaited vote for Wednesday on a bipartisan plan for expanding background checks to more firearms buyers, with supporters facing a steeply uphill path to victory.

By scheduling the roll call, Senate leaders ensured a showdown over the cornerstone of an effort by gun control supporters to tighten firearms laws following December's killings of 20 students and six aides at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn.

The Senate planned to vote on eight other amendments as well to a Democratic gun control bill that besides expanding background checks, would tighten laws against gun trafficking and boost school safety aid.

They included Democratic proposals to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips, which are expected to lose; a Republican proposal requiring states to honor other states' permits allowing concealed weapons, which faces a close vote; and a broad GOP substitute for the overall gun measure.

The focus of both sides has been on a compromise by Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., broadening background checks. It will be the first amendment voted on Wednesday. Despite appearances at the Capitol on Wednesday by wounded former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, proponents seem to face enough potential opponents to derail their endeavor unless they can figure out how to win more votes.

No. 2 Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois, his party's chief vote counter, left a lunch of Democratic senators saying they would need support from nine or 10 Republicans—a tall order.

Attending Tuesday's Senate lunch was Giffords, the Arizona Democrat severely hurt in a 2011 mass shooting in Tucson, and her husband, retired astronaut Mark Kelly. The two, gun owners both, have started a political committee that backs candidates who favor gun restrictions.

"His message was, `We've been through this,"' Durbin said, describing Kelly's remarks to the lawmakers. "`We're ready to fight back to stand up for those who have the courage to vote for gun safety."'

Giffords did not address the lawmakers.

In a blow to gun control advocates, Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., became the latest Republican to say he will oppose a bipartisan compromise broadening background checks.

"I believe that this legislation could lead to the creation of a national gun registry and puts additional burdens on law-abiding citizens," he said.

Before the lunch, Giffords and Kelly met privately with Manchin and Toomey. Their compromise would expand background checks to cover gun shows and the Internet, a plan gun control supporters think gives them the best chance of pushing a broader system of checks through the Senate.

Report: US resorted to torture after 9/11 terror

NEW YORK (AP)—An independent review of the U.S. government's anti-terrorism response after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks reported Tuesday that it is "indisputable" the United States engaged in torture and the George W. Bush administration bears responsibility.

The report by the Constitution Project, a non-partisan Washington-based think-tank, is an ambitious review of the Bush administration's approach to the problems of holding and interrogating detainees after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The report says brutality has occurred in war before, "But there is no evidence there had ever before been the kind of considered and detailed discussions that occurred after September 11, directly involving a president and his top advisers on the wisdom, propriety and legality of inflicting pain and torment on some detainees in our custody."

The former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, John Bolton, called the report "completely divorced from reality" and stressed that the procedures were "lawyered, and lawyered again, and lawyered again."

"The whole point of the Bush administration's review of the techniques was so that no one would be tortured," he said. "The intention was precisely the opposite."

The Constitution Project surveyed the ways in which prisoners were held and interrogated at Guantanamo Bay, in Afghanistan and Iraq, and at secret CIA "black prisons."

The report is the product of a two-year study based on evidence in the public record. It was conducted by a bipartisan task force of 11 experts from a broad range of ideological perspectives and professions. The Constitution Project appointed both former Republican and Democratic policymakers and members of Congress, retired generals, judges, lawyers and academics.

Among them was co-chairman Asa Hutchinson, who was President George W. Bush's undersecretary for border and transportation security at the Department of Homeland Security from 2003 to 2005. The other co-chairman was former Rep. James R. Jones, a Democrat.

Much of the legal justification for what was called "enhanced interrogation" by some, but torture by the Constitution Project, was drafted by John Yoo, at the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

ACROSS THE NATION

Letter with ricin sent to Miss. senator

WASHINGTON (AP)—An envelope addressed to Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi tested positive Tuesday for ricin, a potentially fatal poison, congressional officials said, heightening concerns about terrorism a day after a bombing killed three and left more than 170 injured at the Boston Marathon. One senator, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, said authorities have a suspect in the fast-moving ricin case, but she did not say if an arrest had been made. She added the letter was from an individual who frequently writes lawmakers. The FBI and U.S. Capitol Police are both investigating.

Jury: Wis. dad responsible for killing 3 daughters

HUDSON, Wis. (AP)—A jury on Tuesday rejected an insanity defense by a Wisconsin father who admitted killing his three young daughters last July, ruling that he had a mental defect but still understood that what he was doing was wrong. Aaron Schaffhausen, 35, faces a potential life prison term when he is sentenced. The St. Croix County Circuit Court jury deliberated for about 3 1/2 hours before reaching its verdict. Schaffhausen pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree intentional homicide and one count of attempted arson. But he maintained that he wasn't responsible for killing 11-year-old Amara, 8-year-old Sophie, and 5-year-old Cecilia because of a mental illness.

Groups sue to block Arkansas' 12-week abortion ban

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Abortion rights advocates filed a lawsuit Tuesday that seeks to overturn the more restrictive of Arkansas' two new abortion laws, saying the near-ban of abortions from the 12th week of pregnancy onward is unconstitutional. The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas and the Center for Reproductive Rights, which filed the suit on behalf of Dr. Louis Jerry Edwards and Dr. Tom Tvedten, who provide abortions at a Little Rock clinic, say Arkansas' ban clearly contradicts the standard of viability established by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision.

Asia

NKorea lashes out anew over protest in Seoul

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea lashed out anew Tuesday at South Korea over a small public protest in Seoul in which demonstrators burned effigies of the North's leaders, saying it would not hold talks with its southern neighbor unless it apologized for anti-North Korean actions "big and small" and warning that it could take retaliatory measures at any time.

The statement, which was issued by the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army, came amid international fears that the North is preparing to conduct a medium-range missile test and also as North Korea marked the second day of festivities in honor of the April 15 birthday of its first leader, Kim Il Sung.

Later in the day, its state media quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman saying North Korea has no intention of holding talks with the U.S. unless it also abandons its hostility against the North.

AP

In this April 15, 2013 file photo, South Korean protesters burn effigies of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, and late leaders Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung at an anti-North Korea protest on the birthday of Kim Il Sung in Seoul, South Korea.

The spokesman said the North will "intensify unspecified military countermeasures" unless the U.S. stops conducting military drills on the peninsula and pulls out all the military assets needed to threaten the North with a nuclear attack.

The renewed vitriol, which included the threat for unspecified retaliatory action, followed a Monday protest by about 250 people in downtown Seoul, where effigies of Kim Il Sung and his late son and successor, Kim Jong Il, were burned. Such protests are fairly common in South Korea, and though Monday's was held on the holiday that North Korea calls "The Day of the Sun," some analysts suggested North Korea was using it as a pretext to reject calls for a dialogue with the South, at least for the time being.

North Korea often denounces protests like the one held Monday, but rarely in the name of the Supreme Command, which is headed by Kim Il Sung's grandson and North Korea's overall leader, Kim Jong Un.

The North's statement said it would refuse any offers of talks with the South until it apologized for the "monstrous criminal act."

"If the puppet authorities truly want dialogue and negotiations, they should apologize for all anti-DPRK hostile acts, big and small, and show the compatriots their will to stop all these acts in practice," the statement said. North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK.

This year's festivities were mostly low key, with Pyongyang residents gathering in performance halls and plazas and taking advantage of subsidized treats, like shaved ice and peanuts. Last year's anniversary—the centennial of Kim Il Sung's birth—was marked with days of immense festivities and a massive military parade.

Instead of such grandiose events, the front page of the Rodong Sinmun, the Workers' Party newspaper, on Tuesday featured photos of Kim Jong Un at an orchestral performance with his aunt, Kim Kyong Hui, and other top officials. North Korean media also reported that he watched volleyball and basketball games between Kim Il Sung University of Politics and Kim Il Sung Military University.

West's mores, China imports challenge the burqa

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The homespun Afghan burqa is under siege from east and west these days—cut-price competition from China, and Western influences that are leading many urban women to exchange the full-body cloak for a simple headscarf.

The decline is most noticeable in Kabul, the capital, where women began joining the work force and adopting Western dress soon after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that ousted the puritanical Taliban. Demand for burqas appears strongest in the provinces, where family pressures and the power of conservative warlords continue to enforce a stricter Islamic code.

Alim Nazery, who has traded in burqas in Kabul for 27 years, remembers selling at least 50 burqas a day when the Taliban were in charge. Now he says he sells 20 a day, mostly to women from the provinces.

AP

In this Thursday, April 11, 2013 photo, an Afghan woman peers through the the eye slit of her burqa as she waits to try on a new burqa in shop in the old town of Kabul, Afghanistan.

On one wall of his store in the Old Town market hang Afghan-made burqas costing from 1,000 to 3,000 Afghanis (about $20-$60), and on the other wall Chinese-made robes for 500-800 Afghanis ($10-$15).

"We are selling more Chinese burqas because they are cheaper and people can buy more of them," Nazery said, taking a break from haggling with a burqa-clad pregnant woman as her husband waited outside. Another woman emerged from a fitting room screened off by a row of burqas, asking for something with less embroidery.

In the countryside, where kidnapping and rape are a constant threat, a burqa gives its wearer the safety of anonymity.

But in Kabul, say clothiers, demand is declining as young women go to school and take office jobs—pursuits that were impossible during the five years that the Taliban ran the country. But women's rights activists caution against reading too much into the burqa situation.

They say it's the least of their problems as they continue to battle such issues as domestic violence and forced marriages.

"The current progress and the current achievements for Afghan women are very cosmetic and anything gained can be lost easily," said Selay Ghaffar, executive director of the Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWACA), a non-governmental group. She said she herself wears a burqa when traveling in insecure areas.

Pakistan's Musharraf disqualified from election

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—High court judges disqualified former military ruler Pervez Musharraf from Pakistan's parliamentary election, likely ending any hope of a political comeback.

Musharraf has faced paltry public support, a raft of legal challenges and Taliban death threats since he returned to Pakistan last month after years in self-imposed exile.

Many experts predicted Musharraf's fate and have been scratching their heads at what drove his decision to return. Some have speculated he misjudged how much public backing he would get, while others guessed he was simply homesick.

A judge in the remote northern district of Chitral had given Musharraf some rare good news in approving his bid to run in the May 11 election, even though Musharraf was disqualified in three other districts for suspending the constitution and sacking senior judges while ruling Pakistan.

Musharaf

Pakistan allows a candidate to run for multiple seats simultaneously.

Lawyers challenged the Chitral decision and the high court in the main northwestern city of Peshawar disqualified him Tuesday, said two of the lawyers who raised objections, Taufiq Asif and Rao Abdur Rahim.

Asif challenged Musharraf's candidacy because of his actions while in power, while Rahim said there were procedural flaws with the former military ruler's nomination.

Aasia Ishaq, a spokeswoman for Musharraf's All Pakistan Muslim League party, condemned the court's ruling and said the entire process was biased.

"They are just targeting Pervez Musharraf," Ishaq said.

She said the party would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court and field candidates for nearly 200 national and provincial assembly seats even if Musharraf is disqualified.

Ashraf Gujar, a Pakistani constitutional expert, said he thought there was only a "remote" chance that the Supreme Court would overturn the ruling.

Musharraf seized power in a military coup in 1999 and ruled for nearly a decade before he was forced to step down in 2008. He came back to Pakistan last month to stage a political comeback after four years in self-imposed exile in London and Dubai.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan holds 1st large, live-fire drill in 5 years

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan has held its first large-scale live-fire military exercise in five years, as President Ma Ying-jeou called on soldiers to maintain their "sense of crisis" as China builds up its military. Ma oversaw Wednesday's drill personally. Soldiers aided by frigates and F-16 jet fighters repelled a simulated Chinese invasion on the offshore island of Penghu. The president told the troops that Taiwan must reinforce its defenses to build a credible deterrent in the face of cascading defense expenditures from Beijing. Relations across the Taiwan Strait are the best since Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949. But Beijing still claims the democratic island and threatens to use force if Taiwan moves to make its de facto independence permanent.

Local paper names Chinese victim in Boston blasts

BEIJING (AP)—A state-run Chinese newspaper says the third person killed in the Boston Marathon bombings is a Chinese graduate student at Boston University originally from China's northeastern city of Shenyang. The Shenyang Evening News reported Wednesday on its official Twitter-like microblog account that the victim is named Lu Lingzi. An editor at the newspaper says that Lu's father confirmed his daughter's death when reporters visited the family home. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and Consulate General in New York are not releasing the victim's name at the request of the family. But on Tuesday, Boston media quoted a Chinese Consulate General official as saying Chinese national Lu Lingzi was missing in the wake of the bombings that killed three and wounded more than 170 people.

Official says 5 Afghan guards killed in ambush

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says insurgents have ambushed a convoy of trucks in a restive province near the capital, Kabul, killing five members of a government guard force. The spokesman for the governor of Wardak province says the convoy of supply trucks was being escorted by the Afghan Public Protection Force when it was ambushed on Tuesday on the country's main north-south highway in the Sayed Abad district. Attaullah Khogyani says five guards were killed and one was wounded. He says the insurgents fled after the attack.

World

Earthquake hits Iran and Pakistan; dozens killed

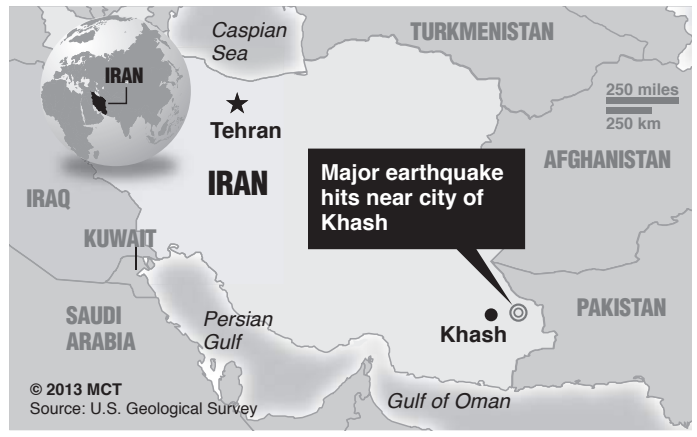
TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An earthquake toppled homes and shops on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border Tuesday, killing dozens of people and causing skyscrapers to sway in Dubai. It also forced Iranian officials—for the second time in less than a week—to issue assurances that its main nuclear reactor wasn't damaged.

At least 34 people were killed in a single village in Pakistan, a military official said. But the overall death toll became clouded after conflicting reports from Iran.

At first, Iran's state-in Press TV said at least 40 people died—which would push the two-nation tally to 74. But it later retreated from its account, and other Iranian outlets stepped in with a far less dire picture.

AP

An Iranian woman reacts as she sits among the rubble of buildings after an earthquake struck southern Iran, in Shonbeh, Iran, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.



Despite the conflicting reports on the Iranian side, a Pakistani military official said at least 34 were killed on their side of the border and 80 were injured. Up to 1,000 mud homes were damaged, Pakistan Television added. The military spoke on condition of anonymity in line with Pakistan military policy.

A Pakistani policeman, Azmatullah Regi, said nearly three dozen homes and shops collapsed in one village in the Mashkel area, which was the hardest hit by the quake. Rescue workers pulled the bodies of a couple and their three children, ages 5 to 15, from the rubble of one house, he said.

The Pakistani army ordered paramilitary troops to assist with rescue operations and provide medical treatment. Additional troops are being moved to the area, and army helicopters were mobilized to carry medical staff, tents, medicine and other relief items.

The discrepancies and apparent backtracking in the Iranian reports could not be immediately reconciled, but it was the second quake to hit Iran in less than week and authorities could be seeking to downplay casualties.

Commentary on Iranian TV criticized international media for "exaggerating" the death toll, raising further questions about the full extent of the damage in the rugged region that's a front line in Iran's battle against drug traffickers and the Sunni-based militant group, Jundallah, which carries out sporadic attacks.

Iran's state-run Press TV initially said at least 40 people were killed on the Iranian side, but later removed the figure from its website and news scroll. Other state-controlled outlets, including the official IRNA news agency, mentioned no deaths and only up to 27 injuries, quoting a local official.

Chavez heir charges US is behind unrest over vote

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's president-elect blamed the opposition Tuesday for seven deaths and 61 injuries that the government claims have occurred in disturbances protesting his election, and he accused the U.S. of organizing the unrest.

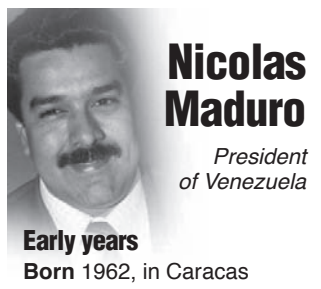
Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles later accused the government of being behind the violence. Maduro's accusation against Washington came after the U.S. State Department said it would not recognize the results of Sunday's unexpectedly close election without the vote-by-vote recount being demanded by Capriles.

"The (U.S.) embassy has financed and led all these violent acts," President-elect Nicolas Maduro, the chosen heir of the late Hugo Chavez, said during a televised meeting at the headquarters of the state oil company.

Earlier, he said he would not allow an opposition protest march called for Wednesday in Caracas, saying Capriles was "responsible for the dead we are mourning" from violence during protests across the country.

Maduro then summoned his own supporters to take to the streets Wednesday in the capital, raising the possibility of a confrontation with anti-government protesters. But Capriles called off the planned opposition march. "Whoever goes out into the street tomorrow is playing the government's game," he said. "The government wants there to be deaths in the country."

He said the accusation by officials that he is mounting an attempt to overthrow the socialist government is a smoke screen to divert attention from demands for a recount.



Nicolas Maduro

President of Venezuela

Early years

Born 1962, in Caracas

Education Public high school

Political career

1980s Became a trade unionist, representing members of the Caracas metro system, while working as a bus driver

1994 Helped secure late President Hugo Chavez's release from prison after a failed coup

1997 Helped found the Fifth Republic Movement (MVR), a left-wing, socialist party started to support Chavez's candidacy for president

1998 Elected on MVR ticket to Chamber of Deputies (lower house of parliament)

1999 Elected to Constituent Assembly, tasked with drafting a new constitution

2000-2006 Elected to the National Assembly (new unicameral legislature); became speaker in 2005

2006-2012 Minister of foreign affairs; known as a skilled negotiator and a pragmatist

2012 Named Chavez's VP and preferred successor

2013 Wins election by narrow margin to serve remainder of Chavez's six-year term

Source: BBC, New York Times, MCT Photo Service © 2013 MCT

"I want to ask Mr. Maduro to calm down a bit. I think he's sort of going crazy," Capriles said at a news conference.

According to the regime-friendly National Electoral Council, which quickly certified Maduro's election Monday, he defeated Capriles by 262,000 votes out of 14.9 million ballots cast. Capriles has charged that Chavistas stole the election.

Outside the capital, a march to demand a recount turned violent in the capital of Barinas,the home state of Chavez. Police fired tear gas and plastic bullets at protesters heeding Capriles' call for protests by marching on the provincial headquarters of the electoral council. Opposition leaders reported 30 arrests. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Barinas Gov. Adan Chavez is a brother of Hugo Chavez, the charismatic but divisive Venezuelan leader who succumbed to cancer March 5 after 14 years as president In a separate televised broadcast, Justice Minister Nestor Reverol accused Capriles of numerous crimes, including insurrection and civil disobedience.

It was part of a drumbeat of attacks by government officials who have been alleging since Monday that Capriles is plotting a coup.

Chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega said 135 people had been detained in protests, presumably on Monday, when Capriles' supporters protested in Caracas and other cities, including Merida and Maracay.

Boston Marathon bombs put world's cities on alert

LONDON (AP)—With two high-profile events in the days ahead—Margaret Thatcher's funeral and the London Marathon—British officials are looking anew at security precautions following the bombings in Boston.

Terror threat levels in Europe and elsewhere, however, have remained unchanged, in contrast to other recent bombings and thwarted attacks that raised alarms and travel warnings.

Such warnings have been issued in the past when threats are considered imminent and with potential international links.

Threat levels also remained unchanged at U.S. defense installations at home and abroad after Monday's deadly bombings at the Boston Marathon, according to a Pentagon spokesman who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press about security.

Britain made last-minute efforts to tighten measures for Wednesday's funeral for Thatcher, the former prime minister, at St. Paul's Cathedral, which is to be attended by hundreds of diplomats and dignitaries, including Queen Elizabeth II.

The chief of London's Metropolitan Police, Bernard Hogan-Howe, said the force will carry out more searches and put more officers on the streets of the capital in the coming days as a precaution.

Police with bomb-detecting dogs were seen Tuesday around such London landmarks as Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and Trafalgar Square, but officials said the searches were routine and unrelated to the Boston attacks.

"The (Boston) attacks mean that we will be assessing our security protocols," said a British security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to be publicly named. "There is some initial information coming out ... but it is too early to draw any conclusions. There doesn't appear at this point, however, to be a wider threat."

More than 37,000 runners and a half-million spectators, including Prince Harry, will be at Sunday's London Marathon. Marathon officials said the race would go on as planned but security was being evaluated.

"The best way for us to react is to push ahead with the marathon on Sunday, to get people on the streets and to celebrate it as we always do in London," British Sports Minister Hugh Robertson said. "We are absolutely confident here that we can keep the event safe and secure."

Security would be particularly tight for the big events in Britain, which has been at the heart of several terrorist attacks in the past decade, including suicide bombings in 2005 that killed 52 people. Several international terror plots have also been traced back to suspects in Britain.

WORLD BRIEFS

IMF leaves Egypt after hearing from opposition

CAIRO (AP)—A team from the International Monetary Fund left Egypt without getting broad backing from the opposition for a government economic plan aimed at getting a key $4.8 billion loan, political blocs said Tuesday. Egypt's main factions say they agree in principle on the need for the loan, seen as a lifeline for the country's battered economy, but there are concerns over unrest if painful austerity measures linked to it are not backed by political consensus. The IMF said in a statement that its delegation met with a range of political figures and Cabinet officials during the nearly two week-long visit that ended late Monday. In previous, shorter trips, the IMF has only focused on meeting with government officials.

Morocco cancels war games with US over rights

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—Morocco on Tuesday canceled its annual military exercises with the United States after the Obama administration backed having the U.N. monitor human rights in the disputed territory of Western Sahara, U.S. officials said. The 13th annual "African Lion" exercise—involving 1,400 U.S. servicemen and 900 Moroccan troops, as well as foreign observers from places like France and Germany—had been set to start Wednesday with many personnel already in place. The troops and equipment were now in the process of being redeployed, according to Eric Elliott, a spokesman for the U.S. Africa Command, or Africom.

Focus

Spirited 8-year-old among Boston Marathon victims

BOSTON (AP)—Third-grader Martin Richard had just gotten ice cream and was near the Boston Marathon finish line, eagerly watching for friends to run by. Krystle Campbell was enjoying the race with her best friend, hoping to get a photo of the other woman's boyfriend after he conquered the last mile.

Then the unthinkable struck. The spirited 8-year-old, pictured on Facebook in his classroom holding a sign that read "No more hurting people," was dead, along with the outgoing 29-year-old woman and a graduate student from China—victims of twin bombs that turned a scene of celebration into chaos.

More than 170 others suffered injuries that included severed limbs, shrapnel wounds, broken bones and head trauma.

Jeff Bauman Jr., a man pictured in an Associated Press photo being rushed from the scene Monday in a wheelchair, lost both legs. Rescuers took the 27-year-old to Boston Medical Center, where doctors found extensive vascular and bone damage.

"Unfortunately my son was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," his father, Jeff Bauman, wrote in a Facebook post.

The younger Bauman, who had been at the race to cheer on his girlfriend, had further surgery because of fluid in his abdomen.

"I just can't explain what's wrong with people today, to do this to people," the father wrote. "I'm really starting to lose faith in our country."

While mourning the dead Tuesday, friends and neighbors tried to focus on positive memories of cherished ones whose deaths still seemed unreal to them.

"I just can't get a handle on it," said Jack Cunningham, a longtime friend of little Martin and his family. "In an instant, life changes."

Cunningham recalled how, as a pint-sized preschooler, the boy had insisted on getting out of his stroller during a 5K race in South Boston. As soon as his mom let him out to run with the rest of the family, Martin took off along the rainy race course.

"He was just having a ball, splashing in every puddle," Cunningham said.

The boy's father, Bill Richard, released a statement thanking friends, family and strangers for their support following his son's death.

Richard's wife, Denise, and the couple's 6-year-old daughter, Jane, suffered serious injuries in the blasts. Their older son, Henry, wasn't hurt. Two neighbors said Jane lost one of her legs in the attack.

AP

This undated photo provided by Bill Richard shows his son, Martin Richard, in Boston.

"My dear son, Martin, has died from injuries sustained in the attack on Boston," Richard said. "My wife and daughter are both recovering from serious injuries. We thank our family and friends, those we know and those we have never met, for their thoughts and prayers. I ask that you continue to pray for my family as we remember Martin."

U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch, a family friend, said Martin and his family were trying to get over the race barriers and into the street after the first blast, when the second bomb struck.

"They were looking in the crowd as the runners were coming to see if they could identify some of their friends when the bomb hit," said Lynch, who has known the Richards for 25 years.

Bill Richard, a runner and cycling enthusiast who did not run the race, had to have several ball bearings removed from his leg, Lynch said.

On Tuesday, a candle burned on the stoop of the family's single-family home in the city's Dorchester section, and the word "Peace" was written in chalk on the front walkway. A child's bicycle helmet lay overturned near the front lawn.

At a nearby park, "Pray for Martin" was written in large block letters on the pavement.

Next-door neighbor Betty Delorey said Martin loved to climb trees and play sports with his brother and sister and the other children in the neighborhood.

"I can just remember his mother calling him, `Martin!' if he was doing something wrong," the 80-year-old said. "Just a vivacious little kid."

A photo of the three Richard children on Halloween in 2009 showed a smiling Martin dressed as Woody from the "Toy Story" films, complete with cowboy hat and sheriff's badge. Beside him stood Jane, dressed as the film character Jesse, and Henry, dressed as Harry Potter.

"He had that million-dollar smile and you never knew what was going to come out of him," said Judy Tuttle, a family friend. "Denise is the most spectacular mother that you've ever met and Bill is a pillar of the community. It doesn't get any better than these people."

She recalled having tea recently with Denise Richard, a librarian at the children's elementary school, while Martin did his homework.

"What a gift," Tuttle said of Martin. "To know him was to love him."

Kevin Andrews, headmaster at the Neighborhood House Charter School, said the school community was heartbroken by the loss of the third-grader, whom he called "a bright, energetic young boy who had big dreams and high hopes for his future."

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Boston, said a Mass on Tuesday in Israel for victims of the bombing, archdiocese officials said. He also called the pastor of St. Ann parish in Dorchester, where the Richards attend church, to say he was praying for them.

Boston University said one of the victims was a graduate student who was watching the race with friends at the finish line, which is not far from the school. The Chinese Consulate in New York said the victim was a Chinese national, though it did not identify the student.

In nearby Medford, William Campbell described his daughter, Krystle, as the light of his life, "a very caring, very loving person."

"Daddy's little girl," the 56-year-old said.

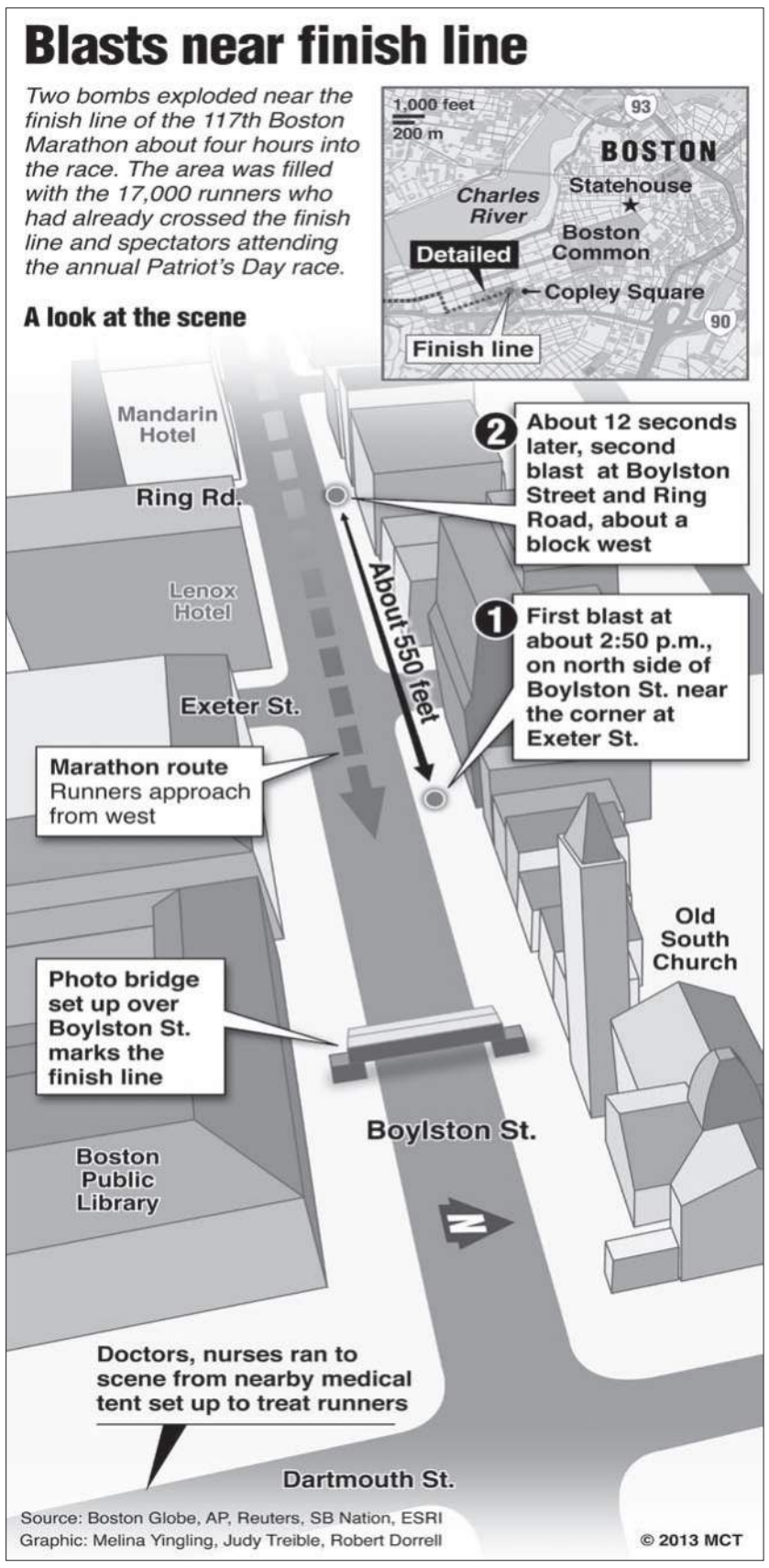
Her mother, Patty Campbell, her voice breaking into tears, said the couple was "heartbroken at the death of our daughter."

"She was a wonderful person. Everybody that knew her loved her. ... She had a heart of gold. She was always smiling. You couldn't ask for a better daughter," the mother said. "This doesn't make sense."

Their daughter's best friend, Karen Rand, suffered a severe leg injury in the blasts. "She's very badly hurt. She's all messed up," William Campbell said. "Her leg was all destroyed."

A friend and co-worker at the restaurant where Krystle Campbell was a manager described her as hardworking yet fun-loving, someone who knew how to live life to its fullest.

"We'd go out drinking and she'd work a double the next day," Sheba Parent said. "But she was still career-oriented and focused on her goals."


Blasts near finish line
Two bombs exploded near the finish line of the 117th Boston Marathon about four hours into the race. The area was filled with the 17,000 runners who had already crossed the finish line and spectators attending the annual Patriot's Day race.
A look at the scene
1,000 feet
200 m
93
BOSTON
Statehouse
Charles River
Boston Common
Detailed
Copley Square
90
Finish line
Mandarin Hotel
Ring Rd.
2 About 12 seconds later, second blast at Boylston Street and Ring Road, about a block west
Lenox Hotel
About 550 feet
1 First blast at about 2:50 p.m., on north side of Boylston St. near the corner at Exeter St.
Exeter St.
Marathon route
Runners approach from west
Old South Church
Photo bridge set up over Boylston St. marks the finish line
Boylston St.
Boston Public Library
N
Doctors, nurses ran to scene from nearby medical tent set up to treat runners
Dartmouth St.
Source: Boston Globe, AP, Reuters, SB Nation, ESRI
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell
© 2013 MCT

A look at the bombing at the Boston Marathon

Two explosions near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday killed three people and injured dozens more. A look at the facts in the case:

THE EXPLOSIONS

Two bombs exploded about 10 seconds and 100 yards apart at about 2:50 p.m. Monday in Boston's Copley Square, near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. An 8-year-old boy and a 29-year-old woman were killed, as was a third person identified only as a Boston University graduate student, and more than 170 were injured. The explosions occurred four hours into the race and two hours after the winners had crossed the finish line, but thousands of runners were still on the course.

THE INVESTIGATION

The bombs consisted of explosives put in common 1.6-gallon pressure cookers, one containing shards of metal and ball bearings, the other packed with nails, according to a person close to the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still going on. Both bombs were stuffed into duffel bags, the person said.

Investigators found pieces of black nylon from a bag or backpack and fragments of BBs and nails, possibly contained in a pressure cooker, FBI agent Richard DesLauriers confirmed.

THE VICTIMS

The 8-year-old boy killed in the bombings, Martin Richard, was remembered by friends and neighbors as a vivacious boy who loved to run, climb and play sports. Also killed was Krystle Campbell, a 29-year-old restaurant manager from Medford, Mass., whose father, William Campbell, said she had gone with a friend to watch the race.

Authorities said the name of the graduate student was not released pending notification of relatives.

PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE

President Barack Obama called the bombings an act of terrorism but said investigators do not know whether they were carried out by an international organization, a domestic group or a "malevolent individual." He said, "The American people refuse to be terrorized."

SECURITY RESPONSE

The area around Copley Square was closed Tuesday, and security was tight around Boston, with bomb-sniffing dogs checking Amtrak passengers' luggage at South Station and transit police patrolling with rifles. The Federal Aviation Administration barred low-flying aircraft within 3.5 miles of the site. Other cities also beefed up security in response to the bombing and the Secret Service expanded its security perimeter around the White House.

WHAT'S NEXT

Authorities continued to investigate, and DesLauriers said the range of suspects and motives was "wide open." People were asked to come forward with video or photos from the marathon or anything suspicious they might have witnessed, such as hearing someone express an interest in explosives or a desire to attack the marathon, or seeing someone carrying a dark heavy bag at the race.

Environment

In Asia, wealth buys access to clean water

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Ninety-one percent of people living in Asia have improved access to clean water, a remarkable achievement over the last two decades in the world's most populous region. But its richest countries and wealthiest citizens likely have better water supplies and governments better prepared for natural disasters.

The assessments made by the Asian Development Bank in a study published Wednesday say countries in the region could be disproportionally affected by the potential impact of climate change if they did not rethink how they manage their water resources. Nearly half of the deaths caused by water-related disasters and 90 percent of people affected by such disasters from 1980 to 2006 lived in Asia, the report said.

Developed nations like Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and Japan top the list of nations best prepared to cope with floods, droughts, hurricanes, storm surges and landslides, while Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, Tajikistan, the Pacific nation of Vanuatu and Bangladesh are the least prepared.

No country in the Asia-Pacific region is a model for its management of water services and resources, according to the Manila-based lending and development institution, whose aim is cutting poverty. Thirty-eight developing countries have low levels of water security or have barely begun to improve, and only 11 have set up infrastructure and management systems.

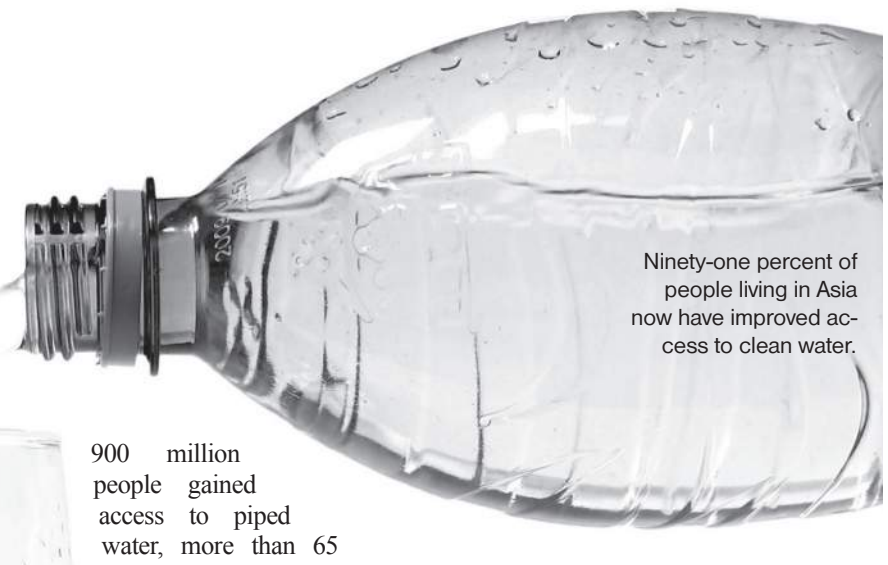
"While the Asia-Pacific region has become an economic powerhouse, it is alarming that no developing country in the region can be considered 'water-secure,'" said ADB Vice President Bindu Lohani.

Nearly 80 percent of Asia's rivers are in poor health. Urban populations are on the rise and so is pollution, while food and energy needs are putting more pressure on the water resources.

Unless these competing needs are balanced, "water security will remain elusive, undermining development gains and the quality of life for billions of people in the region, especially the poor," said Ravi Narayanan, vice chair of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum governing council.

The good news is that the proportion of the region's population with access to drinking water has increased from 74 percent to 91 percent between 1990 and 2010. Progress has been made in all subregions expect the Pacific, where access remains low at 54 percent.

However, access to reliable tap water supply paints a different picture. Although more than 900 million people gained access to piped water, more than 65 percent of the region's population does not have what should be considered a secure household supply.



Ninety-one percent of people living in Asia now have improved access to clean water.

Most cities in Asia, which accounts for half of the world's 20 megacities, have extensive infrastructure for domestic water treatment and supply, although piped systems often stop short of individual households, and potable water services are not maintained full-time at the point of delivery, the ADB said.

For instance, some cities in China and South Korea provide round-the-clock water service, but in many other cities tap water is only available for limited hours. In Jakarta, water is available in most areas for about 18 hours each day, and in Chennai, India, water is available for an average of only about four hours each day.

Then there is the question of health. About 88 percent of all diarrhea cases are attributed to lack of adequate access to water and sanitation.

Although the percentage of people with access to improved sanitation rose from 36 percent in 1990 to 58 percent in 2010, 1.74 billion people in Asia and the Pacific continue to live without access to improved sanitation. More than 792 million people still suffer the indignity of practicing open defecation, and more than 631 million of these people live in rural South Asia.

There are bright spots, with Southeast Asia making rapid progress, expanding coverage by 23 percent between 1990 and 2010, and East Asia by 35 percent.

The gap between rich and poor is a big factor when it comes to water access and management, the report said. In South Asia, led by Bangladesh, it is estimated that up to 96 percent the rural rich have access to sanitation, compared to only 2 percent to 4 percent of the rural poor. There has been little progress on improving access to sanitation in the Pacific islands, the ADB said.

"In Asia and the Pacific, the correlation between income and access is unequivocal —the wealthy have better access than the poor to water supply and sanitation. In addition, the disparity is growing, especially in the burgeoning smaller cities across the region," the ADB said.

Differences between richer and poorer communities amount to 96 percent in Nepal and 92 percent in Cambodia, India, and Pakistan, it said.

In India and the Philippines, another study by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific found that public utilities responsible for providing water and sanitation services "lack capacity in all aspects of sustainability, including effective functioning, financing, and demand responsiveness."

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Candilaria Atalig Agulto

November 08, 1940 – April 11, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Parents: †Damiano Masga Atalig
†Maria Cruz Atalig
Parents-in-Law: †Juan Concepcion Agulto
†Maria Santos Agulto
Husband: †Antonio Mettao Reyes
†Joaquin Santos Agulto (Akin Pai)
Daughter: †Maria Rosario A. Reyes
Granddaughter: †Maria Candilissa R. Agulto

Brothers and In-Laws:
†Antonio C. Atalig, †Gonzalo C. Atalig, †Perfirio C. Atalig, †Felis S. Agulto, †Jose S. Agulto, †Pedro S. Agulto, †Cisto Mendiola, †Leonardo M. Wania, †Francisca A. Mendiola, †Carmen Cepeda Atalig

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: **Michael** and Brenda Angui Reyes
Antonio and Emiliana Mettao Reyes
Mathew A. Agulto and Jenebre Borja
Joseph and Jordan Reyes Agulto
John A. Agulto and Marian T. Castro
Frankie and Carla Smith Agulto

Brother, Sisters and In-Laws:
Jesus C. Atalig
Lucia C. Atalig and Children/Grandchildren
Consolacion C. Atalig and Children/Grandchildren
Lourdes C. Atalig and Juan B. Matagolai and Children/Grandchildren
Ursula A. and Nick Kapileo and Children/Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren
Jesusa A. Palacios and Children/Grandchildren
Rosa Reyes Agulto
MaryJane Taitano

She will also be missed by her Grandchildren, Great Grandson, numerous cousins, families and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each morning at 06:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church followed by Holy Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 08:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

The Family

DO YOUR PART

Keeping your car clean for spring

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's spring and pollen is on the attack. It's in the air, on our skin, and much of it will end up coating our cars. No matter what particular elements you are battling this season, there are eco-friendly ways to keep your car clean for spring. And you can Do Your Part to wash your car without doing damage to our local waterways.

One of the most environmentally unfriendly ways to wash our cars is at home. That's because hosing down and soaping up cars in our driveways uses an average of 80 to 140 gallons of water. And that's not even the worst of it. Contaminates such as oil, brake dust and harsh chemical based detergents run down the driveway into a nearby storm drain. Do you know where that ends up? That untreated soapy water, filled with pollutants, travels right into our lakes and streams.

There are better options when it comes to washing your car yourself. One of the easiest ways to make less impact is to move your car to your lawn or gravel surface where all that contaminated runoff can be absorbed into the ground and filtered naturally. Concerned car owners should also give their car products a good long look. Soaps, waxes and the like that contain petroleum-based ingredients, kerosene, silicone or mineral spirits should be swapped with biodegradable, phosphate-free versions. That way they won't damage nearby water supplies. If you're specifically concerned with reducing the amount of water you use, regulate your water hose with water conserving nozzles. There is also a wide variety of eco-friendly waterless car wash products that eliminate the need for water altogether. Although in pollen season it is probably a good bet to rinse those allergens from your car before getting to the dirty work.

For me, I go the super easy route and choose a responsible car wash facility. A professional car wash generally uses about half as much water as the most careful of home car washer. These facilities are also legally required to route all their used water into the sewer system where it is treated before returning to local waterways. These days, many car washes also understand that they can save money by recycling most, if not all, of the water used in the wash process. This efficiency combined with the environmental benefit also makes selling professional car wash vouchers for a group fundraiser a better way to go than holding the car wash event yourself.

Keeping your car clean maintains your car's value and it just makes you feel good. Do Your Part as you drive through the season to be clean and green at the same time.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A Practical Guide for Everyday Green Living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Texas woman self-publishes and hits best-seller lists

SULPHUR SPRINGS, Texas (AP)—After a feverish month of inspiration, Colleen Hoover had finally fulfilled her dream of writing a book.

With family and friends asking to read the emotional tale of first love, the married mother of three young boys living in rural East Texas and working 11-hour days as a social worker decided to digitally self-publish on Amazon, where they could download it for free for a week.

"I had no intentions of ever getting the book published. I was just writing it for fun," said Hoover, who uploaded "Slammed" a year ago in January.

Soon after self-publishing, people she didn't know were downloading the book—even after it was only available for a fee. Readers began posting reviews and buzz built on blogs. Missing her characters, she self-published the sequel, "Point of Retreat," a month later. By June, both books hit Amazon's Kindle top 100 best-seller list. By July, both were on The New York Times best-seller list for e-books. Soon after, they were picked up by Atria Books, a Simon & Schuster imprint. By fall, she had sold the movie rights.

"I wasn't expecting any of this at all. And I'm not saying I don't like it, but it's taken a lot of getting used to," said the 33-year-old Hoover, who quit her job last summer to focus on her career as an author.

Hoover is both a story of self-published success in the digital age and of the popularity of so-called "New Adult" books, stories featuring characters in their late teens and early 20s. Others in the genre include Jamie McGuire's "Beautiful Disaster" and J. Lynn's "Wait for You." The novels, which often have explicit material, are seen by publishers as a bridge between young adult novels and romance novels.

"In a nutshell, they're stories of characters in their formative year, when everything is new and fresh," said Amy Pierpont, editorial director of the Hachette Book Group's "Forever" imprint, where "New Adult" best sellers include Jessica Sorensen and J.A. Redmerski.

When Hoover finished her third book, "Hopeless," in December, she initially turned down an offer from Atria and decided to digitally self-publish again. By January, that book too was a New York Times best-seller and she signed that month with Atria to publish the print version, but kept control of the electronic version. The paperback is set to come out in May.

In February, Atria bought the digital and paperback rights to two upcoming books from Hoover: "This Girl," the third installment in the "Slammed" series, set for release next month, and "Losing Hope," a companion novel to "Hopeless" to be published in July.

Johanna Castillo, vice president and senior editor at Atria, said she learned about Hoover while perusing book blogs. Checking out Hoover's blog that details not only her burgeoning writing career but also her day-to-day life, Castillo became enchanted. Around the same time, Dystel sent her Hoover's books.

Hoover

"I read them and I liked them and we moved forward very quickly," said Castillo, who adds, "The voice that she has to connect with readers is very special."

In a June post Hoover poignantly writes about being able to move from a single-wide mobile home to "a REAL house. A house with doors that work and an air conditioner that cools and electricity that doesn't shut off if you run two electronics at the same time."

"Seven months ago, we were struggling to make ends meet," she writes in the blog post. "Now, things are finally coming together and it's all because of you guys. Every single person that spent a few bucks to buy a book that I wrote deserves a big THANK YOU from my whole family."

Hoover says a confluence of events led to her writing "Slammed," which tells the story of an 18-year-old girl who moves to a new state with her mother and brother after the sudden death of her father, falls for their 21-year-old neighbor who has a love for slam poetry and soon makes a discovery that means they cannot be together.

Inspiration for the book came from several directions. Hoover had recently gone to a concert of her favorite band, The Avett Brothers, and a line from one of their songs—"Decide what to be and go be it"—kept replaying in her head. Then one of her sons got a part in a community theater production that left her tinkering on her laptop during rehearsals, which included looking up videos of people performing slam poetry. That in turn led to her trying to find a book with a main character who was a slam poet. When she couldn't find such a book, it occurred to her that she could write one herself.

"When I sat down and wrote the first paragraph I was like 'Oh, I can go with this,'" Hoover said. "I didn't do an outline. I didn't do anything. I just wrote sentence by sentence, not knowing where the story was going."

Even after being able to quit her job and signing with Atria, Hoover said it wasn't until a book signing she organized with other indie authors at a Chicago hotel in the fall that her popularity began to sink in.

"I remember coming down the stairs and there was this huge line with hundreds of people and someone goes, 'There's Colleen Hoover,' and they all start freaking out," she said. "That was I think the first moment that it hit me that this was way bigger than I thought."

Hoover grew up in rural East Texas, was married with a baby by the age of 20 and got a degree in social work from Texas A&M-Commerce. She worked as an investigator with Child Protective Services before returning to school to get her qualifications to teach special education, which she did for a year before returning to school again to get a minor in infant nutrition and going to work for the federal Women, Infants and Children program, known as WIC.

Maryse Black, a book blogger who has mostly read and reviewed indie books in the last few years, was among Hoover's early fans.

Black reviewed "Slammed" a couple months after Hoover uploaded it, asking readers if they were in the mood for "a book that will hook you from the first few lines, make you smile, make you laugh, make you ABSOLUTELY fall in love, and then sigh and sigh and sigh again."

"She's 100 percent real in her writing," Black said in a recent phone interview. "I feel like I can relate to her characters. I can relate to their situations and I can relate to their reactions. I can see it actually happening as I'm reading the book it plays out in my head like a seamless movie."

In Celebration of His New Life

† JOSE MIYASAKI BABAUTA

October 31, 1931 – April 11, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †*Juan Dela Cruz Babauta*
†*Maria Miyasaki Babauta*
Parents-in-Law: †*Jose Cabrera Lizama*
†*Consalacion Castro Lizama*
Wife: †*Maria Lizama Babauta*
Sons: †*Felipe Lizama Babauta*
†*George Lizama Babauta*
Granddaughter: †*Maria Lani T. Babauta*

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Common-law Wife: Lilybeth Andrade
Children:

Joseph C. *and Pilar Q. Lizama, (Shirley Jean L./Bruce Norita and daughters) (Thaddeus Jude/Welma Ann Lizama and sons) (Janine Lynn/Billy Joe Camacho) (Jazmin Patrica Q. Lizama/Angelo Marchadesch and daughter) (Janica Victoria/Lamarc)*
Ricardo L. *and Magdalena C. Babauta (Ryan T. Babauta) (Tissa T. Babauta & children) (Sorena Patrice C/Eric Cabrera & daughters) (Ricky Joshua C. Babauta/Shawna T. Chong) (Rilaena Carmelle C. Babauta)*
Francisco L. Babauta *(Maria M/Michael M. Takai & daughters)*
Leonardo L. *and Bernadita DLC. Babauta (Anthony Joseph/Stephanie Hocog and daughter) (Jazmin Patrica Q. Lizama/Angelo Marchadesch and daughter) (Bernard Joseph DLC. Babauta)*
Gregorio L. Babauta *(Janice Y. Babauta) (Jose Miyasaki Babauta II)*
Ray Anthony L. Babauta *(Phillip Joseph Camacho) (Ray Anthony L. Babauta, Jr.)*
Editha B. *and Robert Brigman (Michael Scott/Chemi Babauta & children) (Marie Vernette Brigman)*
Hanaivy A. Babauta *and Joe Miller*

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
†***Manuel M.*** *and Ana B. Babauta and Children*
†***Santiago M.*** *and Carmen N. Babauta and Children*
†***Dionico M.*** *and Dolores D. Babauta and Children*
†***Jesus M.*** *and Petra R. Babauta and Children*
†***Miguel M.*** *and Anuncia Q. Babauta and Children*
Luisa B. *and †Victorino S. Castro and Children*
Soledad B*. and Felix Sasamoto and Children*
Maria B. *and Joaquin C. Duenas and Children*
†*Vicente B. and Magdalena C. Lizama and Children*
†*Francisco C. and Albina G. Lizama and Children*
†*Antonio C. and Emiliana T. Lizama and Children*
Jesus C. and Shelly Lizama and Children
Juan C. and Primitiva Lizama and Children

He is additionally survived by numerous Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, Godchildren, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each evening at 06:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to San Roque Church. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 08:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

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The Family

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Scary Movie 5

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The happily-married parents of a newborn boy seek the assistance of paranormal investigators in riding their home of evil in this installment of the popular spoof series produced and written by David Zucker (Airplane!, The Naked Gun), and directed by Malcolm D. Lee} (Undercover Brother). Ballet dancer Jody (Ashley Tisdale) and ape researcher Dan have just become the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy when the spooky happenings in their home start causing problems in the workplace as well. With a mischievous demon making their lives unbearable, the miserable couple plants cameras in every corner of their house, and recruit some supernatural experts to help evict the diabolical imp.

The Call

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

When a veteran 911 operator takes a life-altering call from a teenage girl who has just been abducted, she realizes that she must confront a killer from her past in order to save the girl's life.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Evil Dead

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Lou Taylor Pucci, Jessica Lucas, Liz Blackmore
Genre: Horror • Rated R

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday			7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25		7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25		7:25	
Monday thru Thursday			7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

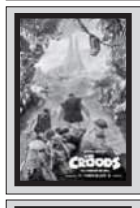
Friday		4:25		
Saturday		4:25		
Sunday		4:25		
Monday thru Thursday		4:25		

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

The Croods 3D

Friday			7:15	
Saturday	1:15		7:15	
Sunday	1:15		7:15	
Monday thru Thursday			7:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



The Croods 2D

Friday		4:15		9:30
Saturday		4:15		9:30
Sunday		4:15		
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15		

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

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Fox removes 'Family Guy' episode from websites

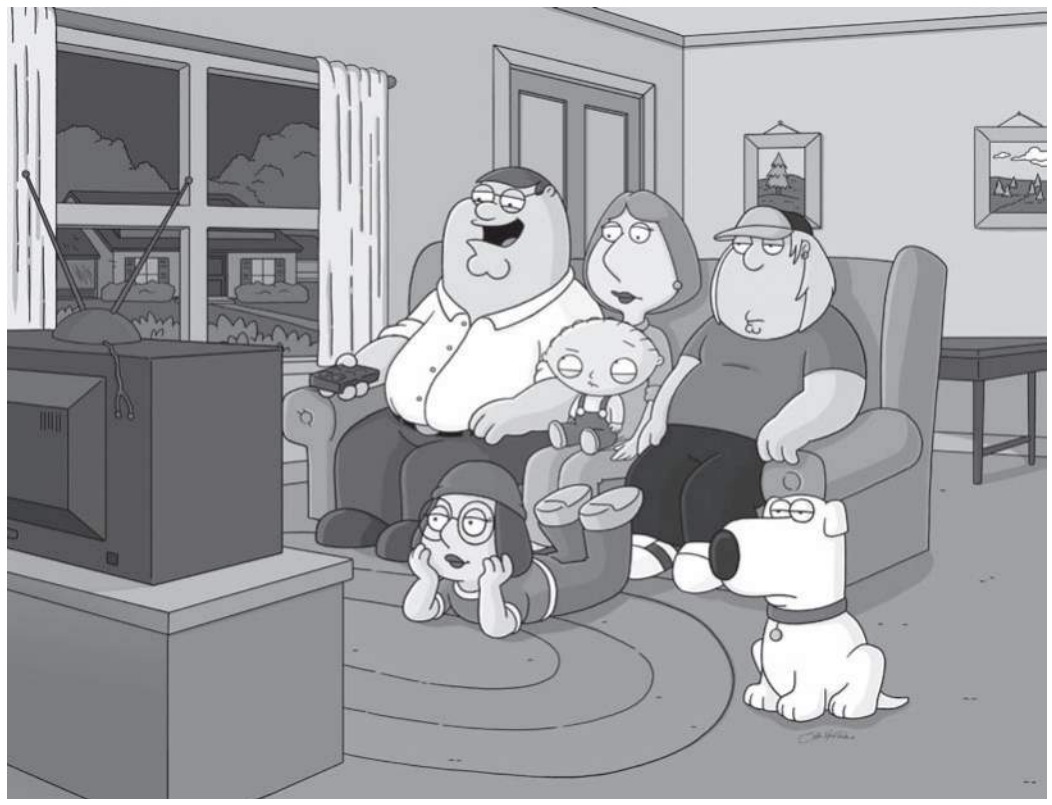
NEW YORK (AP)—Fox has pulled from websites a recent episode of "Family Guy" that depicts mass deaths at the Boston Marathon, and has no immediate plans to air it again.

Fox spokeswoman Gaude Paez said Tuesday the episode has been removed from Fox.com and Hulu.com.

In the episode, which originally aired March 17, protagonist Peter Griffin is asked by sports announcer Bob Costas about his performance at the marathon. A flashback shows Peter mowing down runners with his car.

"I'll tell ya, Bob, I just got in my car and drove it," Griffin says. "And when there was a guy in my way, I killed him."

Later, Peter befriends a terrorist who, unbeknownst to him, is plotting to blow up a bridge. When Peter dials a cellphone the friend has given him, explosions and screams are heard. On some websites, an edited clip has been circulating that fuses the two scenes, making it seem—incorrectly—as if the explosion was at the marathon.



AP

This image released by Fox shows characters from the Fox animated series, "Family Guy."

Some commenters have implied that the show "predicted" the bombings.

"Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane took to Twitter on Tuesday to vent anger over the edited clip and offer condolences to victims of Monday's bombings at the marathon.

"The edited 'Family Guy' clip currently circulating is abhorrent," MacFarlane tweeted. "The event was a crime and a tragedy, and my thoughts are with the victims."

'Man of Steel' promises poignancy from Superman

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Zack Snyder is hoping his Superman reboot "Man of Steel" turns out to be not just a blockbuster, but a movie with a capital "M."

There are panoramic aerial battles on Krypton, there are touching moments between young Clark Kent and both his biological and adoptive fathers, there are close-ups of a fist pounding into ice, and there is lots and lots of big-budget flying.

"I wanted the movie to be a big movie-going experience, full of action, full of emotion and full of the biggest super hero in the world," Snyder said Tuesday before giving the Las Vegas movie theater convention CinemaCon a brief glimpse. "I wanted to give to the cinemas of the world a big, giant 'movie' movie."

The film follows in the modern tradition of the naturalistic superhero movies. It takes place in a gritty-looking, color-drained world of grays, brown and icy blues. All the better to set off that red cape, perhaps.

Snyder

The scenes of Clark Kent's Kansas childhood are drenched in Americana, complete with freshly laundered flannels flapping on the clothes line.

Snyder, who also directed the superhero film "Watchmen," said he wanted to find a poignancy to add to the familiar story.

We get some hints of that tenderness in conversations between Kent and his farmer father, played by Kevin Costner, as they struggle to keep the young superhero's powers hidden.

But then we see Kent grow up, learn to fly and begin to take on an assortment of foes. It's this part of the legend—not the troubled childhood—that seems to most animate Snyder.

"I've been a big fan of the character my whole life," he said. "He is the greatest super hero. There's no competition between super heroes, but if there was, he'd win."

The new franchise is anchored by Henry Cavill, a British actor who starred on the Showtime series "The Tudors" before taking on the mantle of the man of steel. His is the only chiseled face in the trailer not instantly recognizable as a mega-star.

Snyder and Warner Bros. appear to be enjoying teasing fans with snippets of the film, which hits theaters at the height of blockbuster season on June 14.

On Tuesday, fans were treated to their first snatch of dialogue between Superman and his Lois Lane, Amy Adams.

"What's the S stand for," Adams asks at the end of the teaser trailer.

"It's not an S. On my world it means 'hope,'" a caped Superman responds.

"Well, here it's an S," says Adams, "How about, 'Sup-"

But before she can finish, a burst of feedback cuts her off.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending April 15, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. "Just Give Me a Reason (feat. Nate Ruess)," P!nk
2. "Can't Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
3. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
4. "Crash My Party," Luke Bryan
5 "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
6. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
7. "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake
8. "Cruise (Remix) (feat. Nelly)," Florida Georgia Line
9. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
10. "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)," Icona Pop

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Paramore," Paramore
2. "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
3. "Hotel California," Tyga
4. "Wheelhouse," Brad Paisley
5. "Caught In the Act: Live," Eric Church
6. "Based On a True Story." Blake Shelton
7. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
8. "Save Rock and Roll," Fall Out Boy
9. "Outlaw Gentlemen & Shady Ladies (Deluxe Version)," Volbeat
10. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending April 15, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Slayin (FDG Entertainment)
4. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
5. Sleep Cycle alarm clock (Maciek Drejak Labs)
6. Arms Cartel Global (Pixel Addicts)
7. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
8. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Creations)
9. AfterLight (Simon Filip)
10. What's the Phrase (Zynga Inc.)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Vine (Vine Labs, Inc.)
2. Dentist Office, Ninjafish Studios
3. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
4. Fruit Ninja, Halfbrick Studios
5. Sonic Dash (SEGA)
6. Injustice: Gods Among Us (Warner Bros.)
7. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
8. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
9. The Masters Golf Tournament (Augusta National, Inc.)
10. Real Basketball (Mobil Interaktif)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
2. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
3. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
4. Mr. Crab (Illusion Labs)
5. Wreck-it Ralph (Disney)
6. Pages (Apple)
7. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
8. Toca Hair Salon 2 (Toca Boca AB)
9. Mittens HD (Disney)
10. Photon Flash Player for iPad - Flash Video & Games plus Private Web Browser (Appsverse Inc.)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Dentist Office (Ninjafish Studios)
2. Injustice: Gods Among Us (Warner Bros.)
3. The Official Masters Tournament (Augusta National, Inc.)
4. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
5. Fruit Ninja HD (Halfbrick Studios)
6. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
7. Sonic Dash (SEGA)
8. Fruit Ninja (Halfbrick Studios)
9. Talking Larry the Bird for iPad (Out Fit 7 Ltd.)
10. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)

Ozzy Osbourne denies marriage split rumors

LONDON (AP)—Rocker Ozzy Osbourne has denied rumors of a split from his wife Sharon and apologized to his family for returning to drink and drugs.

The Black Sabbath singer says he was in a "dark place" but has been sober for 44 days.

In a message posted Tuesday on his Facebook page, 64-year-old Osbourne said that "for the last year and a half I have been drinking and taking drugs."

He said "I was in a very dark place" and apologized for his "insane behavior."

Osbourne added: "Just to set the record straight, Sharon and I are not divorcing."

The couple and their children, Jack and Kelly, became reality TV stars a decade ago with MTV series "The Osbournes."

Sharon Osbourne was later a judge on "America's Got Talent"—as well as Ozzy's manager.

Ozzy Osbourne was a founding member of heavy-metal pioneers Black Sabbath, but left the group in 1979.

AP

This is a Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007 file photo of Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne as they arrive at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's sixth annual benefit "An Enduring Vision" at The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, in New York.

He has since rejoined, and the band's new studio album "13"—its first with Ozzy for 35 years—is out in June.

The band is due to tour Australia and New Zealand this month and plans European and North American dates later in the year.

Actor who played choked Death Star commander dies

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Character actor Richard LeParmentier, who as a young Death Star commander learned the hard way that Darth Vader brooks no disrespect, died Tuesday. He was 66.

LeParmentier died suddenly Tuesday morning in Austin while visiting his children, said his publicist, Derek Maki. Maki said he does not know the cause.

LeParmentier was born in Pittsburgh, but moved to Britain in 1974 and had been living in Bath, England, when he died.

As Admiral Motti in 1977's "Star Wars," LeParmentier's character mocks Vader's "sad devotion to that ancient Jedi religion." Vader responds with a demonstration, using the force to choke the young commander, but allowing him to live.

LeParmentier appeared frequently in British television roles throughout his career and was working as a screenwriter when he died. He played a reporter in 1980's "Superman II," which featured actress Sarah Dougless—the villainess Ursa—with whom he was married from 1981 until 1984, according to their imdb.com profiles.

It was for his "Star Wars" role that LeParmentier may be best remembered as an actor.

"He absolutely loved traveling the world and meeting his friends and fellow Stars Wars fans, whose tributes have given us all the best lines in this message," LeParmentier's family said in a statement.

"He was no respecter of convention, except comic conventions," said Rhiannon, Stephanie and Tyrone LeParmentier.

"Every time we find someone's lack of faith disturbing, we'll think of him," they said.

Indian state stops Playboy beach club from opening

PANAJI, India (AP)—India's going to have to wait for its first Playboy bunnies.

After a month of heated debate, the government in the tourist hotspot of Goa refused permission for promoters to open the country's first Playboy club in a 22,000-square-foot open-air property on upmarket Candolim beach.

Women's groups and conservative politicians had attacked the proposed club, with Michael Lobo, a legislator from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party saying it was "tantamount to promoting prostitution."

In the end, the government barred the club from opening in one of India's most famous party locations on technical grounds. Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar told the state assembly Monday that licenses to run so-called beach shacks—even ones as large as the proposed Playboy club—could not be granted to companies, only individuals.

"We cannot give them a license to operate a beach shack," Parrikar said.

Mumbai-based PB Lifestyle announced last year it had obtained an exclusive license to open Playboy clubs, hotels, bars and cafes and sell Playboy branded merchandise in India. It said it would start with a club in Goa and then expand to the southern city of Hyderabad.

PB Lifestyle chief executive Sanjay Gupta did not immediately respond to a message left at his office.

He said last year he was working to recast Playboy into an aspirational lifestyle brand that wouldn't spark a backlash in the conservative country, distancing itself from nudity and toning down the traditional, body-hugging bunny costume.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Police chase ends with 'X-Factor' hopeful jailed

SLIDELL, La. (AP)—Police in Louisiana say a chase after a stolen Pontiac Grand Prix ended with a forced spin-out and the arrest of a man who said he took the car because he had to get home and to a second audition for the Fox reality show "The X Factor." Detective Daniel Seuzeneau says 20-year-old Orrion Wilson, of Jacksonville, Fla., was in the Slidell jail Tuesday, awaiting transfer to another jail and a bond hearing. The chase was Monday night, one day after open auditions for the singing contest in New Orleans. Slidell is across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. Seuzeneau says Wilson was booked with aggravated assault on a police officer, theft of a motor vehicle, theft over $500, criminal damage, resisting an officer, and aggravated flight from an officer. A Fox publicist had no immediate comment.

Chris Tucker to host BET Awards on June 30

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Tucker will host this year's Black Entertainment TV Awards. The network announced Tuesday that the comedian-actor will host the show June 30 from the Nokia Theater L.A. Live. Tucker is riding high off of his supporting role in the Oscar-nominated film "Silver Linings Playbook," which starred Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper. The 41-year-old is best known for starring in the "Rush Hour" film franchise opposite Jackie Chan. He said in a statement that he's honored and "looking forward to being part of a really great show." The BET Awards is part of three-day event the network is putting on that weekend dubbed "BET Experience at L.A. Live." It kicks off June 28 with a Beyonce concert. Other performers throughout the weekend include Kendrick Lamar, Miguel, The Jacksons and R. Kelly.

Judge: No more excuses for would-be Jackson jurors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles judge says except for medical emergencies, she won't consider any more excuses from potential jurors in the lawsuit by Michael Jackson's mother against concert promoter AEG.

Superior Court Judge Yvette Palazuelos received a flurry of last-minute notes Tuesday from people asking to leave the case because of scheduling and financial hardships they had not claimed earlier. She excused 10 more panelists from a pool of 87 and ordered attorneys to begin individual questioning.

One man declared he disliked Jackson and his whole family and thought Katherine Jackson's lawsuit blaming AEG for the singer's death is frivolous. He was excused because his employer wouldn't pay for his jury service. Other prospects were less outspoken.

Jury selection in the case is scheduled to continue Wednesday.

Downside overshadows upside in woman's fear of parenthood

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are contemplating starting a family. When I was younger I wanted children, but over the years my personal experiences have caused trepidation. Because of divorce and the custody battles of my older siblings, I know the amount of blood, sweat and tears that go into children.

I work in the field of social services. Every day I am confronted with families who struggle with more children than they can care for and with behavioral and emotional problems. Frankly, it has turned me off. I am terrified of all the "what ifs."

I can't talk to my family because I don't want to tell them they have created part of my problem. My in-laws can't understand why we don't have children yet.

My husband keeps insisting "everything will be fine." I love him deeply and he would make an amazing father. My heart wants this, but my head isn't sure. I can't picture our future without children, but the fear of actually having them brings me to tears. Can you help me?

SCARED TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP

DEAR SCARED: Children don't come with 100 percent, money-back guarantees. What they need in order to thrive is parents who love each other and them, and who are willing to put forth the time and energy to raise them. I don't know what went wrong in your siblings' marriages, but it appears their kids have been used as pawns rather than having their own interests put first. If both parents cooperated in the interests of the children there would be no battles.

Please do not allow the dysfunction you have seen in your work to influence your decision. You and your husband will not be having more children than you can afford, and I assume you are approaching the idea of parenthood in a mature fashion. I would caution you about one thing, however. Having a child because of pressure from your in-laws would be a poor reason to embark upon parenthood.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm at a crossroads. I have been married for 15 years and have two children. I love my wife and have been content with this life for a long time. However, for years I have felt like something was missing.

I recently become close friends with a man who is in the same situation. One day he confided that he is gay and has known it for more than 10 years. He told me he, too, had been content with his life but had grown increasingly depressed before we met.

As our friendship has developed I have come to realize that I'm gay as well. It was a struggle to finally admit this to myself, but I accept that it's the truth. My friend and I have been exploring our sexuality together, and he says he is happier than he has been in years.

Both of us love our wives and children; however, we desperately need to fulfill our own needs as well. Do you have any advice on the best way to move forward that will have minimal impact on everyone involved?

IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION

DEAR IN: You say you have known for years that something was missing. Well, it is possible that your wives have felt the same way, and may have blamed themselves for it. That's why it is important for you and your friend to explain everything to them honestly.

It would be helpful for everyone who will be affected to seek counseling and receive the emotional support they will need through this life-changing transition. You and your lover should go online and find the nearest gay and lesbian community center. (Visit www.lgbtcenters.org for a complete list.) Your wives should contact the Straight Spouse Network, which has been mentioned in my column many times. It can be reached at www.straightspouse.org.

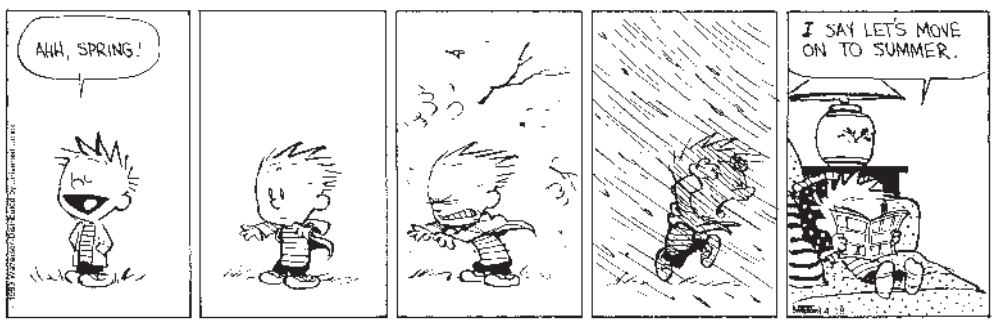
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

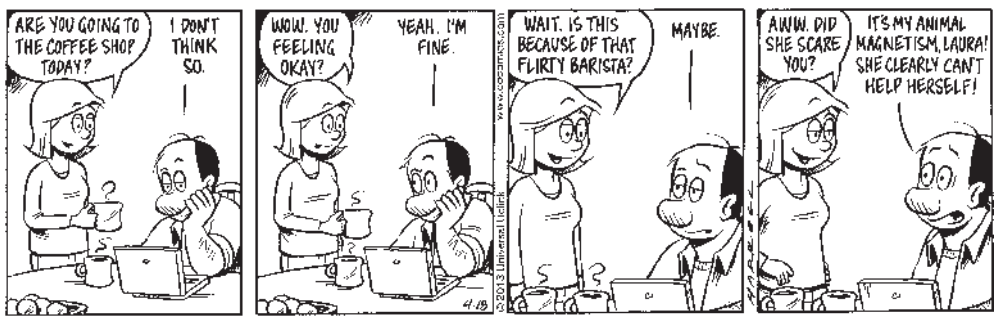


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ARE YOU GOING TO THE COFFEE SHOP TODAY?
I DON'T THINK SO.
WOW. YOU FEELING OKAY?
YEAH. I'M FINE.
WAIT. IS THIS BECAUSE OF THAT FLIRTY BARISTA?
MAYBE.
AWW. DID SHE SCARE YOU?
IT'S MY ANIMAL MAGNETISM, LAURA! SHE CLEARLY CAN'T HELP HERSELF!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WOW! I JUST HAD THIS STRANGE FEELING THAT MY SPIRIT LEFT ME..
AND FLOATED TO MY CAR DEALER'S SERVICE STATION, WHERE I SAT FOR HOURS, DRINKING STALE COFFEE WHILE THEY CHANGED THE OIL IN MY CAR.
YOU JUST HAD AN AUTO-BODY EXPERIENCE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lily variety
5 Homer's outcry
8 Wax-coated cheese
12 Bivouac
13 Individual
14 Field mouse
15 Memo acronym
16 Series of battles
17 Actor McGregor
18 Fame
20 Easter hat
22 Stitch
23 Beast of burden
24 Commanded
27 Human-like robots
32 In olden days
33 "No seats" sign
34 Pizzazz
35 Detective
38 Say it isn't so
39 Actor Beatty
40 Neither mate
42 Falling-blocks game
45 Wedding-related
49 Ms. Brocko-vich
50 Shock and —
52 — colada
53 Unspeak-able act?
54 Shell game item
55 Support
56 Rind
57 Collection
58 Long-ings

DOWN
1 Cicatrix
2 Facility
3 Fed
4 Go up against
5 Earth-ward airstream
6 — budget
7 KFC additive
8 Neverthe-less
9 Fire some folks
10 Wings
11 Common noun suffix
19 1927 Lind-bergh book
21 Rowing need
24 "Hum-bug!"
25 Khan title
26 Period of inactivity
28 Gun lobby org.
29 Pessi-mistic
30 Noise
31 Agent
36 Bit of grain
37 Star Wars inits.
38 Raining some-what
41 On the other hand
42 Office part-timer
43 Great Lake
44 1940 Laurel & Hardy film, "— at Sea"
46 Tragic
47 Unsigned (Abbr.)
48 NASCAR circuits
51 Teensy

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	O	L	M	■	T	A	P	■	S	P	E	W
A	S	E	A	■	W	O	O	■	H	O	M	E
F	L	A	G	P	O	L	E	■	A	L	I	T
T	O	N	G	A	■	■	M	A	K	F	R	S
■	■	■	O	R	F	F	■	N	O	S	■	■
J	E	S	T	■	L	O	A	N	■	T	A	M
A	R	T	■	Y	U	G	O	A	■	A	M	A
B	R	A	■	E	X	A	M	■	B	R	I	O
■	■	R	N	A	■	L	E	E	R	■	■	■
S	A	F	A	H	I	■	■	I	A	N	G	O
E	M	I	T	■	F	I	S	H	H	O	O	K
R	E	S	I	■	F	H	O	■	M	A	Y	A
A	S	H	Y	■	Y	E	W	■	S	H	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 4-18

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: America Ferrera, 29; Melissa Joan Hart, 37; Conan O'Brien, 50; Jane Leeves, 52

Happy Birthday: Take care of business, but don't let your emotions lead to a dispute. Keep a clear head if you want to reach your set goals. Partnerships will weigh heavy on how well you do. Collaborating with someone able to contribute as much input as you will lead to an interesting new beginning. A commitment will change your life. Your numbers are 6, 11, 17, 24, 27, 33, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will be tempted to overspend in order to buy love or make an impression. Refrain from playing games with loved ones. Be responsible or you will face criticism. It's up to you to do what's right. Impulsiveness must be avoided. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Nurture partnerships and do your best to fulfill your end of any bargain you make. Don't allow emotional issues to upset what you need to accomplish. Problems dealing with institutions or while traveling can be expected. Stick close to home. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Contact people you have worked with in the past and you will find out valuable information. A service you have to offer should be made more enticing. Rework your presentation and greater success can be yours. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Question your situation and formulate your options. Don't act in haste or make a decision based on secondhand information. Rely on your intuition and show discipline when dealing with temptation. Participate in something you believe in. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Share your ideas and make suggestions that will help the people you encounter and you will discover a way to mix business with pleasure and come out on top. Don't let an emotional incident ruin your plans. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put a little extra time and effort into your appearance. You'll discover something you enjoy doing that can be turned into a profitable endeavor. Love and romance are in the stars, and socializing will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Expect to face someone who is trying to make you feel guilty. Think outside the box and you will come up with a solution that give you the freedom to do as you please. A partnership will play an important role in your future. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use greater creativity on the job. Taking an idea and turning it into something spectacular will make some of your peers jealous, but will also give you the push you need to advance. Your kindness and optimism must be your driving force. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take care of domestic issues. Make decisions that will lead to home improvements or greater comfort. Socializing with friends and peers will allow you to show your leadership ability. Take charge and you'll make an impression. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't make a promise you can't keep. Expect someone to disappoint you. Take care of home and family but don't allow anyone to disrupt your plans. Problems will occur due to an unexpected situation or change. Think before you speak. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't be afraid to change your direction or reinvent what you have to offer. Go over past successes and you will discover a common denominator. Home improvements will open up options you hadn't considered in the past. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Use your skills wisely. Take part in activities or events that allow you to show off what you have to offer. Contracts can be negotiated and settlements completed. Love is on the rise but don't let someone from your past complicate matters. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are stubborn, forgiving and outspoken. You are creative and entertaining.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	6					
	9			4				5
1				2				7
					5		9	
		8				2		
	4		8					
8				1				2
5				9			6	
					7	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	3	2	9	1	6	8	7
1	7	8	4	6	3	2	5	9
2	9	6	5	8	7	4	3	1
4	6	9	8	1	5	3	7	2
8	1	7	3	2	6	9	4	5
3	5	2	7	4	9	1	6	8
9	8	1	6	5	4	7	2	3
7	2	4	9	3	8	5	1	6
6	3	5	1	7	2	8	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WHEN THE STORK COMES Solution: 9 letters

A	A	B	B	A	B	Y	N	E	W	B	O	R	N	L
N	N	U	I	O	C	P	G	S	P	E	C	I	A	L
T	C	N	N	R	Y	P	I	S	T	N	E	V	E	L
I	I	D	O	I	T	A	S	F	A	M	I	L	Y	L
C	E	L	G	U	Q	H	E	L	A	R	G	E	B	A
I	N	E	I	P	N	U	D	P	R	O	T	E	C	T
P	T	Ⓨ	R	R	A	C	E	A	E	R	A	H	S	E
A	F	Ⓤ	L	E	L	R	E	D	Y	K	O	O	L	K
T	I	Ⓑ	O	W	S	T	E	M	T	M	W	L	I	S
I	G	I	V	E	N	L	E	N	E	S	H	D	N	A
O	B	R	E	E	I	M	A	S	T	N	I	I	G	B
N	R	D	S	V	O	F	S	O	T	S	T	N	R	R
A	T	E	E	R	N	A	U	N	A	M	E	G	E	I
E	R	R	Y	I	G	T	C	A	K	E	E	P	E	N
P	A	R	W	E	L	C	O	M	E	M	E	H	T	G

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Ancient, Announcement, Anticipation, Arrival, Baby, Basket, Beak, Bird, Birthday, Bows, Boy, Bring, Bundle, Buy, Cake, Carry, Deliver, Design, Events, Family, Gift, Girl, Greet, Happy, Holding, Home, Infant, Keep, Large, Love, Memory, Message, Name, Newborn, Parents, Present, Protect, Share, Sling, Special, Stout, Take, Tall, Theme, Unique, Welcome, White, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Cheese

THE WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $11.95 (which includes shipping and handling) to: Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Credit card orders can be placed by calling 1-800-591-8466. Outside the U.S. please add $5.00 for postage and handling. Allow 10 to 12 weeks for delivery.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Royal Thai Massage is looking for 3 Masseuses w/ 1 yr. exp. Green card or US Citizen preferred. Call 234-2521.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
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- Proficient in Microsoft computer operation and maintenance
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- Willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
- Adhere to all school policies and procedures

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Qualifications
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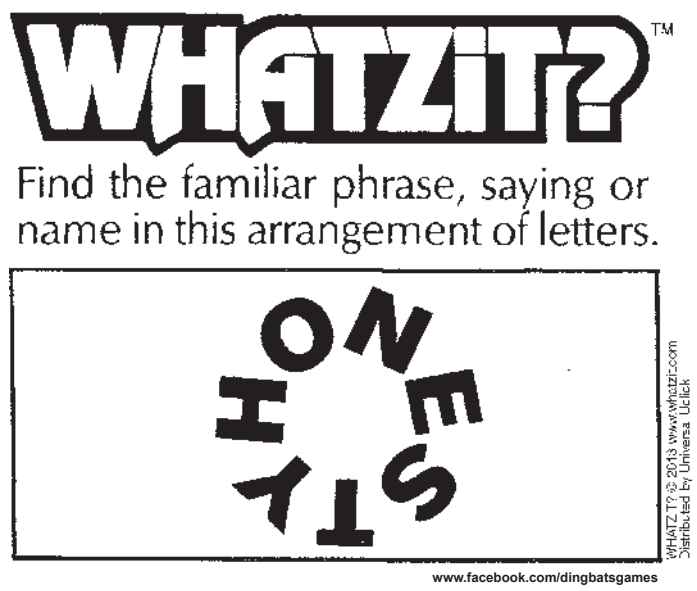

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Playoffs looming, and Wade thinking of a 3rd ring

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade was sitting with his mother after a pregame workout a few days ago, a rare quiet moment in a nearly empty arena that would soon be filled by 20,000 screaming Miami Heat fans.

She was wearing a pendant shaped like one of her son's two Heat championship rings, which probably explains why their chat revolved around the looming NBA playoffs. They talked about the 2006 title and how that paid tribute to ring-starved veterans like Alonzo Mourning and Gary Payton. They talked about last year's crown, which served as the long-awaited coronation for LeBron James.

"What's the third one going to be for?" Jolinda Wade asked.

Wade thought for a moment, then said, "This one's for me."

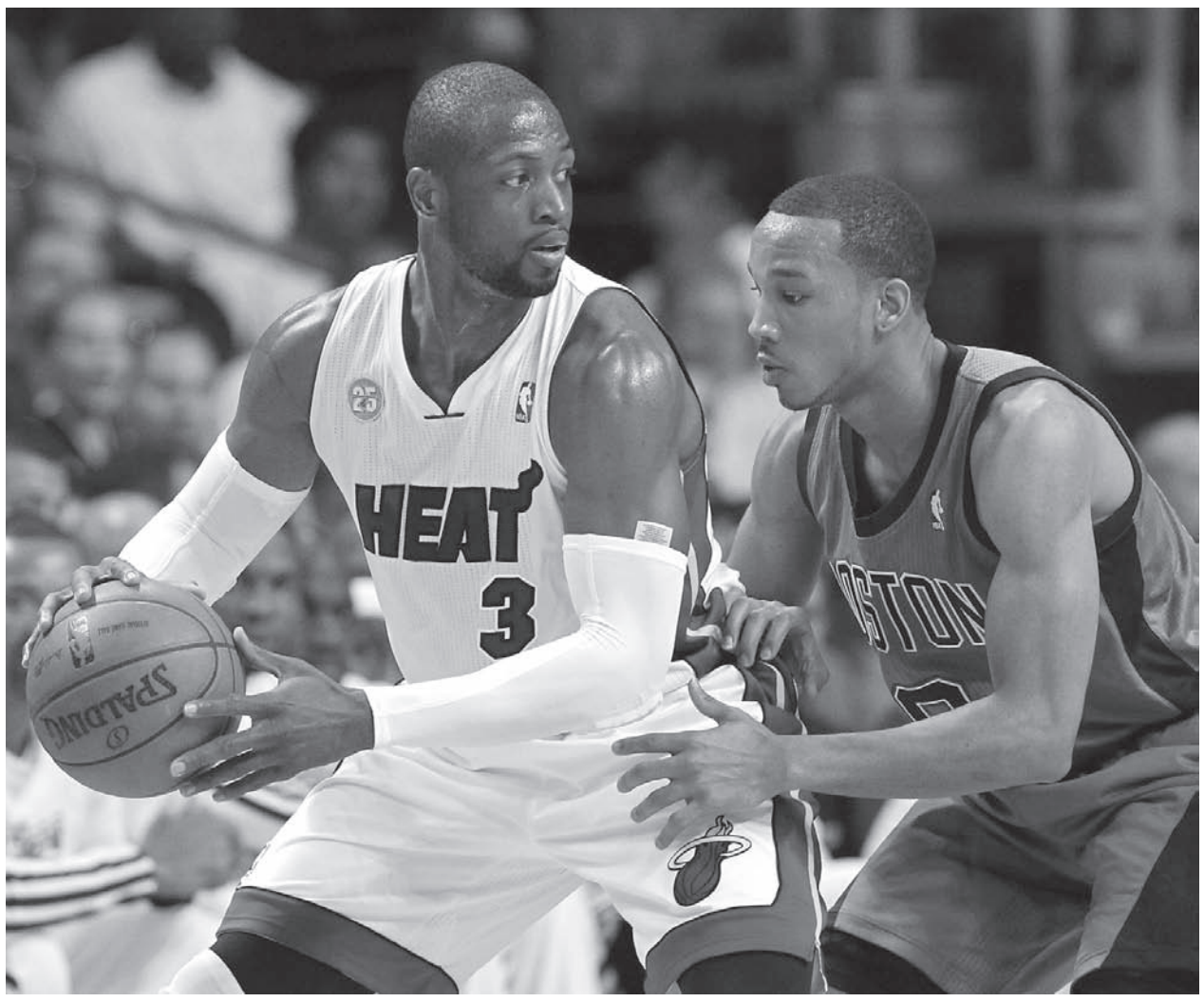
He doesn't say those words in an egotistical way, but more in the sense that a third championship would allow for the sense of accomplishment he craved when he came into the league 10 years ago. Wade is a perennial All-Star who has been to the NBA Finals three times already, and when the playoffs open this weekend he and the Heat will be heavily favored to get there again.

He's rich, which he says he always wanted. He's famous, which he says he never wanted. His on-court legacy is secure.

All that's left, he said, is winning more titles. And the quest for the player who wears No. 3 to win ring No. 3 starts this weekend, when the Heat will open an Eastern Conference first-round series at home against the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I feel like I need three rings. After that, I'm playing with church's money," Wade told The Associated Press. "I've always said that if I can end my career with at least three rings ... I've already had a special career, but it would put me in that special group that only a few can say that they're in. It would mean a lot. It would mean a lot. It would mean a lot."

In a year where some say things like his scoring numbers—21.2 points per game, his lowest since his rookie season but still eighth-best in the NBA—were proof that his skills are vanishing, Wade is shooting better than 50 percent for the first time. And only four NBA players are averaging at least 20 points, five rebounds and five assists per game this season, that group including Russell Westbrook, Kobe Bryant, James and Wade.



AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, left, drives against Boston Celtic guard Avery Bradley during the second quarter of a regular season NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Miami on Friday, April 12, 2013.

No, he's not the player who will average 30 points per game anymore. No, he doesn't always dunk as spectacularly as he once did. No, the Heat offense doesn't run exclusively through him nowadays, and hasn't for about three years since James' arrival in Miami.

What Wade thinks that people tend to forget is that most of those so-called signs of decline came at his own choosing, byproducts of him going out and helping convince James and Chris Bosh to come to Miami in the first place.

"I mean, let's talk about the obvious," Wade said. "Guys get older. That's obvious. Yes, I've gotten older. Yes, my game has changed. But let's talk production. I'm a productive player. My numbers show it. I buy into the efficiency numbers - more than I should and it drives me crazy that I buy into it. I look around the league and see guys shooting 41 percent and they're getting patted on the back. I'm shooting 52 percent and I'm on the decline?"

He says these words while sitting on a leather sofa, facing a photo on the wall that was snapped about nine years ago of him trying a windmill dunk. His hair looked different then. His arms and legs of those days look downright scrawny compared to his physique now. Knee problems, shoulder problems, divorce proceedings, custody fights, they all were years away.

He's not getting those "BIW" texts from Heat President Pat Riley anymore, the acronym that meant Best In World, since even the most ardent Wade supporter would likely agree that James would be the Miami player deserving of that title now.

But the way Wade has taken what appears to be a supporting role to James at times is quite possibly the biggest reason why the Heat are chasing a third straight trip to The Finals.

"In any field, any profession, you're going to deal with egos," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And if you're the face of your organization and then you willingly take a step back and sacrifice to add more talent so the organization or your corporation can become better, I don't know how many people will be willing to do that. You have to be very, very mature. If it were easy, more players would try to attempt what we're doing right now."

Thing is, it's not easy, even though Wade has made it seem that way.

He gave up money, nearly $20 million in guaranteed salary, when he signed his most recent deal with Miami in order to make all the other roster moves fall into place. He's given up shots; he took a career-high 1,739 shots five seasons ago, which is only 176 fewer attempts than he's taken in the last two seasons combined. He's given up a huge portion of the spotlight; remember, even President Barack Obama said earlier this year that it's James' world now.

"I didn't want that life anymore," Wade said. "I want a different life. This is the life that I choose. Sometimes it's frustrating because I know I've got more, but team success is way more fulfilling than the individual. I've totally changed my game. I tried to do it for what I feel is the best for this team. Was it the best for me individually? Maybe not. But I did what I think is best for this team."

And in the playoffs, he'll try to keep doing the same.

A year ago, the Heat were dealing with the sting of losing the 2011 Finals, along with all the can-LeBron-ever-win questions. They were on the ropes against Indiana in the second round last year, needed to win two elimination games to top Boston in a ultra-competitive East finals, then lost Game 1 of the Finals to Oklahoma City before winning the last four games of the season.

This time around, the Heat have the best record in basketball. The question no longer is "Can they win?" It's now closer to "How can they lose?"

To Wade, that's the playoff challenge. Finding an edge last year was easy. Finding an edge this time around will be more difficult, but necessary.

"I think the thing that's going to get us over that hump is really understanding the opportunity that we have and not letting it slip, because this kind of team, this kind of moment, they don't come around often," Wade said. "Understanding the importance of this is what we'll probably have to pull from. This is historic, what we're embarking on. That's got to mean something to us as a team. So let's go."

Clippers rout Trail Blazers, 93-77

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Caron Butler scored 18 of his 22 points in the third quarter, and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the Portland Trail Blazers 93-77 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight victory.

Blake Griffin added 16 points, DeAndre Jordan had 10 points and nine rebounds, and Chris Paul had 11 assists for the Pacific Division champions, who finished their home schedule with a 32-9 record. They end the regular season on Wednesday at Sacramento, and another win would ensure the Clippers have home-court advantage to start the playoffs.

Will Barton scored 17 points and Joel Freeland added 13 points for the Blazers, who never led while losing their 12th in a row.

The Clippers were dominant in the paint (46-30) and on the boards (51-33) while wrapping up the season series 3-1.

Five of the previous six meetings between the teams in Los Angeles had been decided by 10 points or fewer. It was never that close after the second quarter, when the Clippers pulled away on the strength of their bench.

The reserves scored 15 consecutive points for a 45-29 lead, including five by Ryan Hollins. He and Jamal Crawford combined for the quarter's most spectacular play, with Crawford flipping a no-look pass to a streaking Hollins on the fast break for a driving jam. Hollins got fouled and completed the three-point play.

The starters returned for the final four minutes and sent the Clippers into the half leading 54-36.

Butler had the hot hand in the third, hitting four 3-pointers in his first game since sitting out the second half at Memphis last weekend because of a sore right knee. Chauncey Billups returned to the starting lineup after missing eight games with a strained right groin. He had four points—all on free throws—while playing 17 minutes, just under the limit set for him.

The highlight dunk of the third belonged to Jordan. Paul found him on the break and Jordan dunked with his fingertips. The starters rested in the fourth. Twelve of the 13 Clippers scored in the game.

Raptors 113, Hawks 96

In Atlanta, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, Rudy Gay added 22 and Toronto ran all over playoff-bound Atlanta.

The Raptors made two-thirds of their shots in the first half, sprinting to a 68-51 lead as DeRozan scored 19 points and Gay chipped in with 17. Atlanta went mostly with backups, showing no sense of urgency to claim the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Atlanta fell into a tie with Chicago for the fifth spot. The teams finish the regular season on Wednesday, with the Hawks traveling to New York to face the Knicks, while the Bulls are home against lowly Washington. Chicago holds the tiebreaker.

Kyle Korver led the Hawks with 13 points, extending his 3-point streak to 73 consecutive games.

NBA BRIEFS

Spurs sign Tracy McGrady

The San Antonio Spurs announced Tuesday the signing of veteran free-agent forward Tracy McGrady for the rest of the season. McGrady, who spent this season playing in the Chinese Basketball Association, will step into the open roster spot created by the release of Stephen Jackson last week. Because McGrady was not previously on an NBA roster, he is playoff-eligible. McGrady, 33, last played in the NBA as a member of the Hawks in 2011-12, when he averaged 5.3 points, 3 rebounds and 2.1 assists in 16.1 minutes per game. Playing for the Qingdao Eagles in China, McGrady averaged 25 points, 7.2 rebounds and 5.1 assists per game. The 15-year NBA veteran holds career averages of 19.6 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.4 assists but saw his productivity start to dip significantly at the age of 29 because of knee injuries. ***(www.si.com)***

Knicks sign Quentin Richardson

The Knicks announced Tuesday the signing of veteran guard Quentin Richardson for the rest of the season. Richardson is eligible for the playoffs because he did not play in the NBA this season. The move completes a busy week of roster juggling for the Knicks, who released Kurt Thomas, flirted with James Singleton, and then signed Solomon Jones. New York then released Jones after he played 26 minutes in two games. Richardson, 33, last played in the NBA for the Magic in 2011-12, when he averaged 4.5 points and 2.6 rebounds in 18 minutes per game. Back in October, the Magic bought out the final two years of Richardson's contract and he remained unsigned until Tuesday. The 12-year NBA veteran holds career averages of 10.3 points, 4.7 rebounds and 1.5 assists. Richardson's tenure has included stops with the Clippers, Suns, Knicks, Heat and Magic; his previous time in New York spanned four seasons, from 2005 to 2009. ***(www.si.com)***

Somber Red Sox regroup, beat Indians, 7-2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Mike Napoli hit a three-run double in Boston's seven-run second inning as the Red Sox, playing with heavy hearts one day after the deadly bombings back home, beat the Cleveland Indians 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Boston's players were already en route to Cleveland when they learned of the explosions near the Boston Marathon's finish line that killed three and injured more than 170. The Red Sox were hoping to bring some relief to those affected by the tragedy, and they may have while winning their fourth straight.

The series opener was also Indians manager Terry Francona's first game against the Red Sox, the team he led to two World Series titles during eight seasons in Boston.

Helped by five walks, the Red Sox scored seven runs in the second off Ubaldo Jimenez (0-2) and gave Felix Doubront (1-0) all the support he needed.

Monday's tragic events in Boston brought a somber tone to Francona's reunion as well as to the Red Sox. Before the game, in a clubhouse devoid of its usual pregame sound and bustle, several players spoke of how a memorable Patriots Day win over Tampa Bay turned horrific.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Mike Napoli hits a bases-loaded double off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez to drive in three runs in the second inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 16, 2013, in Cleveland.

Orioles 5, Rays 4

In Baltimore, Matt Wieters homered, Nate McLouth scored twice, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the struggling Tampa Bay Rays despite allowing three home runs.

The Orioles let a four-run cushion dwindle to 5-4 in the eighth, but held on for their fifth straight home win over the Rays, dating to last year.

Desmond Jennings homered on the game's first pitch for Tampa Bay, and Kelly Johnson and Evan Longoria connected off Pedro Strop in the eighth. But the Rays could muster only six hits against Jake Arrieta (1-2) and five relievers.

Roberto Hernandez (0-3) took the loss for last-place Tampa Bay, which has lost four straight and seven of eight. With a 4-9 record, Tampa Bay has matched the worst start in franchise history (2001 and 2005).

White Sox 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Dayan Viciedo doubled home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning and the Chicago White Sox rallied to beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

Paul Konerko hit a game-tying homer and scored three runs as the White Sox won for just the second time in eight games. Matt Lindstrom (1-0) got one out for the win and Addison Reed finished for his fifth save in as many opportunities.

Colby Rasmus and J.P. Arencibia hit solo home runs for the Blue Jays, who couldn't hold on after taking a 2-1 lead in the sixth. Steve Delabar (1-1) allowed two runs and one hit in 1 1-3 innings.

Twins 8, Angels 6

In Minneapolis, Joe Mauer had another four hits and three RBIs to lead the Minnesota Twins past the Los Angeles Angels.

Mauer sprayed four singles into the Target Field outfield, making him 8 for 10 in the series through two games and raising his average to .386. Brian Dozier added two hits and two RBIs in his first career game batting leadoff for the Twins.

Mike Pelfrey (2-1) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings for the Twins. Jason Vargas (0-2) gave up five runs and nine hits with two walks in just 3 1/3 innings for the Angels.

Athletics 4, Astros 3

In Oakland, California, Josh Donaldson's eighth-inning triple drove in Josh Reddick for the winning run and Oakland Athletics overcame starter A.J. Griffin's early struggles for a victory over the Houston Astros.

Reddick drew a two-out walk off reliever Rhiner Cruz (0-1) and took off for second just before Donaldson's hit down the right-field line landed just fair. Houston outfielder Rick Ankiel made a diving attempt, but came up short as Reddick raced around the bases.

Eric Sogard added a career-high three hits for the A's, who have won all five games against the Astros this season.

Carlos Pena homered for Houston, which has lost four straight. Grant Balfour pitched the ninth for his second save in as many chances after Sean Doolittle (1-0) gave up Pena's tying home run.

Tigers 6, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer and drove in Detroit's first four runs, and the Tigers beat the Seattle Mariners.

Cabrera's homer came with two outs in the fifth inning off Seattle starter Aaron Harang (0-1) and was his second of the season. Cabrera drove a pitch off the edge of the plate out to right-center field to give the Tigers a 3-2 lead. Cabrera also had RBIs in the first and seventh innings. Austin Jackson scored twice, giving him 19 runs scored in just 13 games.

Doug Fister (3-0) pitched seven strong innings for his first victory against his former team.

Yankees 4, Diamondbacks 2

In New York, Robinson Cano paid tribute to Jackie Robinson in fitting fashion by hitting a three-run homer, and the New York Yankees beat the Arizona Diamondbacks on a night devoted to honoring victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

Cano, whose big league father Jose named him for Robinson, connected on the day when all players, managers, coaches and umpires at Yankee Stadium wore No. 42 to salute the late Brooklyn Dodgers Hall of Famer. Major League Baseball held Jackie Robinson Day on Monday, the anniversary of the date he broke the color barrier in 1947. The Yankees and Diamondbacks were off Monday.

Mariano Rivera, the last big leaguer still wearing No. 42 on a daily basis, closed for his third save.

The Yankees also remembered Boston, home of their longtime rivals, by playing the Fenway Park favorite "Sweet Caroline" after the third inning. Yankees fans sang along with the Neil Diamond hit as it came over the public-address system, and some people in the crowd wore Red Sox hats and jerseys.

Ivan Nova (1-1) labored through five innings for the win. Brandon McCarthy (0-2) took the loss.

Braves 6, Royals 3

In Atlanta, Jason Heyward, Justin Upton and Dan Uggla homered in the eighth inning, and Juan Francisco hit a pair of solo shots earlier in the game to help the Atlanta Braves win their 10th straight with a victory over the Kansas City Royals in an interleague matchup.

Atlanta's 10-game winning streak is its longest since the club won 15 in a row from April 15 to May 2, 2000. The Braves are 12-1 and off to their best start since they began the 1994 season 13-1.

Eric O'Flaherty (3-0) struck out two in a scoreless eighth.

Heyward's second homer, Upton's eighth and Uggla's third were solo shots off Kelvin Herrera (1-1). The Braves have outhomered opponents 25-7 and outscored them 68-25 for the best run differential in the majors.

Heyward hit the go-ahead shot before Upton and Uggla followed to make it 5-2.

Craig Kimbrel finished off the Royals in a non-save situation after an injury to Luis Avilan.

Rangers 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Derek Holland pitched seven shutout innings, Adrian Beltre hit a two-run homer and Craig Gentry made a diving catch for the final out to preserve Texas' interleague victory over Chicago on a 39-degree night at Wrigley Field.

Holland (1-1) at one point retired nine straight against the Cubs, who have lost three games in a row. The left-hander struck out six and allowed two hits.

Beltre's home run off reliever Shawn Camp gave the Rangers a 4-0 lead in the eighth. Chicago starter Travis Wood (1-1) gave up two runs and five hits in 7 1-3 innings.

The Cubs scored twice with two outs in the ninth, but Gentry made a diving grab on Darwin Barney's bases-loaded liner to give Joe Nathan his fifth save in five tries.

Marlins 8, Nationals 2

In Miami, Adeiny Hechavarria ended Miami's nine-game home run drought with a three-run shot against Washington.

A throwing error by Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman—his fourth in five games—preceded the homer and led to four unearned runs.

The Marlins (3-11) began the game with the worst record in the majors but broke out of an offensive slump in the fourth inning with four runs, more than they had scored in all but one game.

Hechavarria sent the Marlins Park home run sculpture swinging into action for the first time this season and ended a homer drought that had tied the 20-year-old franchise record.

Justin Ruggiano had two hits and three RBIs, and Juan Pierre finished with three hits. Alex Sanabia (2-1) allowed two runs in six innings, and two relievers completed an eight-hitter.

Dan Haren (1-2) gave up seven runs, three earned, in 4 1-3 innings and lowered his ERA to 8.10.

The Nationals played without three regulars. Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton sat out for the fifth consecutive game because of a bruised left shoulder.

Rockies 8, Mets 4, 1st game

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez homered and tripled, Todd Helton hit a go-ahead single and Colorado beat New York in the opening game of a doubleheader that was delayed 2 hours as 8 inches of snow was cleared off the field.

One day after a spring storm postponed the first game of the series, the teams were scheduled to play two in frigid conditions. The temperature at first pitch was 39 degrees and dipped to 36 for the nightcap.

David Wright homered twice for the Mets, finally back on the field after cold weather postponed two straight games. Wintry conditions in Minneapolis on Sunday prompted their game against the Twins to be rescheduled in August.

Juan Nicasio (2-0) allowed four runs in five innings. Dillon Gee (0-3) had another rough outing for the Mets, going 4 2-3 innings and giving up five earned runs.

Early in the morning, Rockies owner Dick Monfort took the field with a shovel and helped clear the way for the game to be played. A crew of team employees lent a hand as well, as did Sandy Alderson, the general manager of the Mets.

Donaire will bounce back, says Palace

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—Malacañang said on Sunday that Filipinos would continue to root for fallen champion Nonito Donaire Jr. and that his return to glory would be a source of motivation.

"Nonito Donaire Jr. might have failed in his quest to unite the WBO and WBA super bantamweight titles but the support of our countrymen in our 'Filipino Flash' remains unabated," deputy press spokesperson Abigail Valte said in a statement.

"The entire country continues to have faith in the rise and return of the Boxing Writers Association of America's 2012 Fighter of the Year to serve as inspiration for his millions of countrymen and supporters," Valte added.

Donaire

In Legazpi City, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said Donaire's defeat was a clear manifestation of the need for adequate public investments in sports development.

"The proof of the pudding is in the pounding – government should invest more in sport development if we want to see a golden era in Philippine boxing," Salceda said.

"Now, that the season of harvest has passed, a season to regenerate is upon us," he added. "Even if we assume the Filipino race has the genes, the question is where is the grassroots program to discover and develop it." ***(PDI)***

JONES

From Page 28

and an ERA of 1.50," Jones said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* last weekend.

Jones got his first win this month against Northeastern Junior College on April 3, pitching in four innings, giving up only two hits and no runs, walking two, and striking out four in the Trojans' 5-1 victory. The Kagman High School graduate got his second win against Pratt Community College last Friday, but pitching statistics was not available at press time.

Then last Sunday (Monday on Saipan), against Pratt Community College, Jones pitched the Trojans to a rousing 22-4 win. He allowed only two earned runs and four hits and struck out four batters.

Jones and the Colby are 4-1 this month with the freshman showing the best performance among the five pitchers the Trojans used in an epic 19-inning loss to Hutchinson Community College, 7-8, last April 7. Jones was the fourth pitcher for the Trojans, pitching seven tiring innings and striking out 12—the most he got this spring season. He also allowed only three hits and no runs. Before the 20-year-old player stepped up to the mound, the first three Colby pitchers had already allowed 11 hits and gave up seven runs. Then Hutchinson's run was scored when Jones was already at the dugout after being replaced by Zack Friedland. An exhausted Jones had 114 pitches and made 59 strikes.

As of yesterday, Jones is in the Top 50 of the overall pitching race in NJCAA Region VI, which is made up of 20 schools. In nine appearances with the Trojans this season, he pitched 30 innings, allowed 23 hits, 10 runs, 6 earned, 9 base on balls, and 39 strikeouts for a 1.80 ERA. His strikeouts average per game is 10.20 for the overall season and 11.25 for the conference. Jones also had a good showing at bat with his .460 average for the season and .247 in the conference.

RED SOX

From Page 28

cios Ballfield.

Camacho was on the mound for 6.2 innings and allowed only one hit and two unearned runs, while striking out 14 to hand the Red Sox the victory after only six and a half innings. Camacho ended his pitching duties with another strikeout—the first in the top of the sixth for the Comets—and was relieved by Craig Aguon, who quickly struck out two more batters to wrap up the inning. Aguon was steady, too, in the last inning, making two 1-3 put-out play and another strikeout.

The relief pitcher also went 2-for-3 at bat, had one single and double, and scored one run. Aguon's RBI single put the Red Sox in the scoreboard, but the Comets still led, 2-1, after getting two runs off their foes' errors.

However, that was the only time the Comets held the driver's seat, as Camacho struck out the first three batters at the top of the second, while the Red Sox answered with four runs in the bottom. Chabo Deleon Guerrero hit an RBI double, while Roke Tenorio connected on an RBI single, and the two other runs were courtesy off the Comets' miscues.

Camacho continued to silence the Comets' batters in the next four innings and the Red Sox added four more unearned runs in the last two innings for the emphatic win.

Falcons 6, Lions 3

In the second match last weekend, the Falcons eluded the Lions.

The complete game was decided in the last two innings with the Falcons scoring four runs at top of the sixth and pitcher Brandon Pua holding his ground against the Lions' rally in the bottom of the seventh.

The Falcons led by only one, 2-1, after five complete innings, but stretched the advantage to five, 6-1, after collecting unearned runs off the Lions' wild pitches and throwing miscues. Jayjay Fejeran, Dondon Fejeran, Kekuni Kainoa, and Pua scored for the Falcons.

The Lions, which got their first run in the third inning, failed to produce anew, as Perry Celis was left stranded at third after Jon Ilo was caught stealing second base for the third out. Pua got the first out, striking Quintin Deleon Guerrero, while Jesse Kalen flied out to second.

The Lions then remained in contention after the Falcons managed to reach only third base, as Celis struck out the lead off batter, the third was beaten to first, and the fourth grounded out, also at first base.

An RBI single from Kobe Tomokane moved the Lions within four, 2-6, with only one out and the former advancing to second base off a steal. Pua got the second out, striking out Angie Muna, but the Lions stayed in the game, as Tomokane moved to third, while E.J. Dela Cruz walked and later made it to second off a Falcons error. With runners on third and second, Pua denied the Lions' bid to score and extend the game when he struck out Quintin Dela Cruz for the third out.

Meanwhile, the third game last Sunday had JPO Enforcers routing X-clusive, 18-6.

FAVORED

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by Nestor Corotan (1:37:58), Joel Felizario (1:44:31), Rommel Tiosejo (1:49:00), John Parungao (1:50:31), and Ponce Corotan (1:54:50).

In the sports course, which had the same route with bikers skipping the Kimikaze and Autobahn trails, the top finishers were Dennis Dencio (1:13:51), Nelson Pagaduan (1:18:09), Ruben Leynes (1:19:23), and Gerald Rangamar (1:30:33).

Dencio defeated Rommel Isidro (1:16:33) and Nestor Abing (1:17:04) in the men's overall race, while Pagaduan topped the 45-and-below age group, downing Roland Libayan (1:18:33), Edwin Morales (1:18:59), and Rene Albay (1:19:41).

In the 46-and-above division, Leynes won over Rey Tentia (1:23:58), Rey Joson (1:47:36), and Osami Taniguchi (1:47:36), while Rangamar was entered in the U18 category.

In the road bike division, the favored Nap Dizon was the first overall finisher, completing the three-lap race from Mariana Resort to Mobil Tanapag and Banzai Cliff and back in 1:31:20 and beating youth rider Erico Castro in a photo finish. Phil Gauang rounded out the very tight race for the Top 3 with his 1:31:21.

In the 45-and-below age group, Aldrin Sta. Ana also won a close race with his 1:31:21 beating the 1:31:23 of Ricky Melchor. Other finishers in the same group are Jess Acuavera (1:44:16), John Dax Moreno (1:45:30), Rommel Dron (1:51:21), and June Pineda (1:51:32).

Rene Calage beat Cesar Fortalez and Paul Plunkett in another photo finish with the former submitting 1:31:22 to rule the 46-and-above age group. Fortaleza settled for the runner-up finish with his 1:31:23, while Plunkett dropped to third with his 1:31:24. Fred Camacho (1:42:05), Derek Chambers (1:43:58), Allen Perez (1:44:10), and Jim Arenovski (2:19:15) were the other finishers in the group, while Christian Bravo raced in the youth category (one lap) and logged 48:12.

Meanwhile, the Saipan Cyclers Association would like to thank the following for supporting last Sunday's race: Mariana Resort, Saipan Bike Pro, H&R Block, Bridge Capital, LLC, MARPAC, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, DFS Saipan, IT&E, Braby, The Water Company, Bank Pacific, Gold's Gym, Aglaia Restaurant, Jonny's Bar, and Pacific Trading, Co.

KagHS softball gears up

The Kagman High School CC club is gearing up for its upcoming co-ed softball tournament slated from April 27 to 28 at the Dandan softball field.

Entrance fee will be $150 to help students defray the cost of their trip to Guam where they take part in the upcoming Micronesian Fair on May 2013.

For more information, contact Newman Techur at email nennn2ur@gmail.com or call Galelynn Martin at 286-3680. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	53	28	.654	–
x-Brooklyn	48	33	.593	5
x-Boston	41	39	.513	11Ω
Philadelphia	33	48	.407	20
Toronto	33	48	.407	20

Southeast Division

z-Miami	65	16	.802	–
x-Atlanta	44	37	.543	21
Washington	29	52	.358	36
Charlotte	20	61	.247	45
Orlando	20	61	.247	45

Central Division

y-Indiana	49	31	.613	–
x-Chicago	44	37	.543	5Ω
x-Milwaukee	37	44	.457	12Ω
Detroit	29	52	.358	20Ω
Cleveland	24	57	.296	25Ω

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	58	23	.716	–
x-Memphis	55	26	.679	3
x-Houston	45	36	.556	13
Dallas	40	41	.494	18
New Orleans	27	54	.333	31

Northwest Division

z-Oklahoma City	60	21	.741	–
x-Denver	56	25	.691	4
Utah	43	38	.531	17
Portland	33	48	.407	27
Minnesota	30	51	.370	30

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	55	26	.679	–
x-Golden State	46	35	.568	9
L.A. Lakers	44	37	.543	11
Sacramento	28	53	.346	27
Phoenix	25	56	.309	30

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, NYK	67	669	425	1920	28.7
Durant, OKC	80	721	673	2251	28.1
Bryant, LAL	78	738	525	2133	27.3
James, MIA	76	765	403	2036	26.8
Harden, HOU	76	572	658	1977	26.0
Westbrook, OKC	80	663	457	1878	23.5
Curry, GOL	76	608	259	1736	22.8
Wade, MIA	68	560	305	1442	21.2
Aldridge, POR	73	626	276	1530	21.0
Lopez, Bro	73	563	291	1417	19.4
Ellis, MIL	80	582	285	1537	19.2
Lillard, POR	80	542	264	1529	19.1
Williams, Bro	77	493	314	1468	19.1
Pierce, BOS	76	471	333	1419	18.7
Lee, GOL	77	588	251	1427	18.5
Griffin, LAC	78	568	276	1417	18.2
Gay, TOR	73	506	236	1325	18.2
Smith, NYK	80	527	237	1446	18.1
Jr. Holiday, PHL	76	546	182	1364	17.9
DeRozan, TOR	80	529	345	1431	17.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	305	476	.641
Howard, LAL	464	798	.581
McGee, DEN	298	516	.578
Ibaka, OKC	434	757	.573
James, MIA	765	1354	.565
Hickson, POR	414	733	.565
Splitter, SAN	311	554	.561
Johnson, TOR	330	597	.553
Faried, DEN	380	689	.552
Horford, ATL	576	1060	.543

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, LAL	75	248	679	927	12.4
Vucevic, ORL	75	265	625	890	11.9
Asik, HOU	80	271	666	937	11.7
Lee, GOL	77	216	649	865	11.2
Randolph, MEM	74	303	525	828	11.2
Evans, Bro	79	257	620	877	11.1
Hickson, POR	78	261	557	818	10.5
Horford, ATL	74	195	562	757	10.2
Cousins, SAC	73	217	501	718	9.8
Boozer, CHI	77	171	579	750	9.7

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	38	420	11.1
Paul, LAC	68	656	9.6
Vasquez, NOR	78	704	9.0
Jr. Holiday, PHL	76	622	8.2
Williams, Bro	77	598	7.8
Parker, SAN	65	491	7.6
Rubio, MIN	55	410	7.5
Westbrook, OKC	80	596	7.5
Nelson, ORL	56	413	7.4
Dragic, PHX	76	555	7.3

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	4	.692	–
New York	7	5	.583	1 1/2
Baltimore	7	6	.538	2
Toronto	6	8	.429	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	4	9	.308	5

Central Division

Detroit	8	5	.615	–
Kansas City	7	6	.538	1
Minnesota	6	7	.462	2
Chicago	6	8	.429	2 1/2
Cleveland	5	7	.417	2 1/2

West Division

Oakland	11	4	.733	–
Texas	9	5	.643	1 1/2
Seattle	6	9	.400	5
Houston	4	10	.286	6 1/2
Los Angeles	4	10	.286	6 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	12	1	.923	–
Washington	8	6	.571	4 1/2
New York	7	6	.538	5
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	6
Miami	3	11	.214	9 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	8	5	.615	–
Cincinnati	6	7	.462	2
Pittsburgh	6	7	.462	2
Milwaukee	4	8	.333	3 1/2
Chicago	4	9	.308	4

West Division

Colorado	10	4	.714	–
San Francisco	9	5	.643	1
Arizona	8	5	.615	1 1/2
Los Angeles	7	7	.500	3
San Diego	4	10	.286	6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SLLB Action Over The Weekend

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An IT&E pitcher shows his pitching form in their game against Kagman Laolao Bay Golf Resort during the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

A Lions batter swings and misses during their game against the Ol'Aces in the Senior League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A Lions pitcher checks on an Ol'Aces batter first before making a pitch.

A Go See Mark Ol'Aces batter goes for a swing during their Major game against the Comets II.

Kagman Laolao Bay Golf Resort checks on the field before running to home plate.

The Kagman Laolao Bay Golf Resort pitcher makes eye contact with the catcher before throwing a pitch.

A JPO Enforcers pitcher gestures with an X-clusive batter after a hit-by-pitch play during their Junior League game.

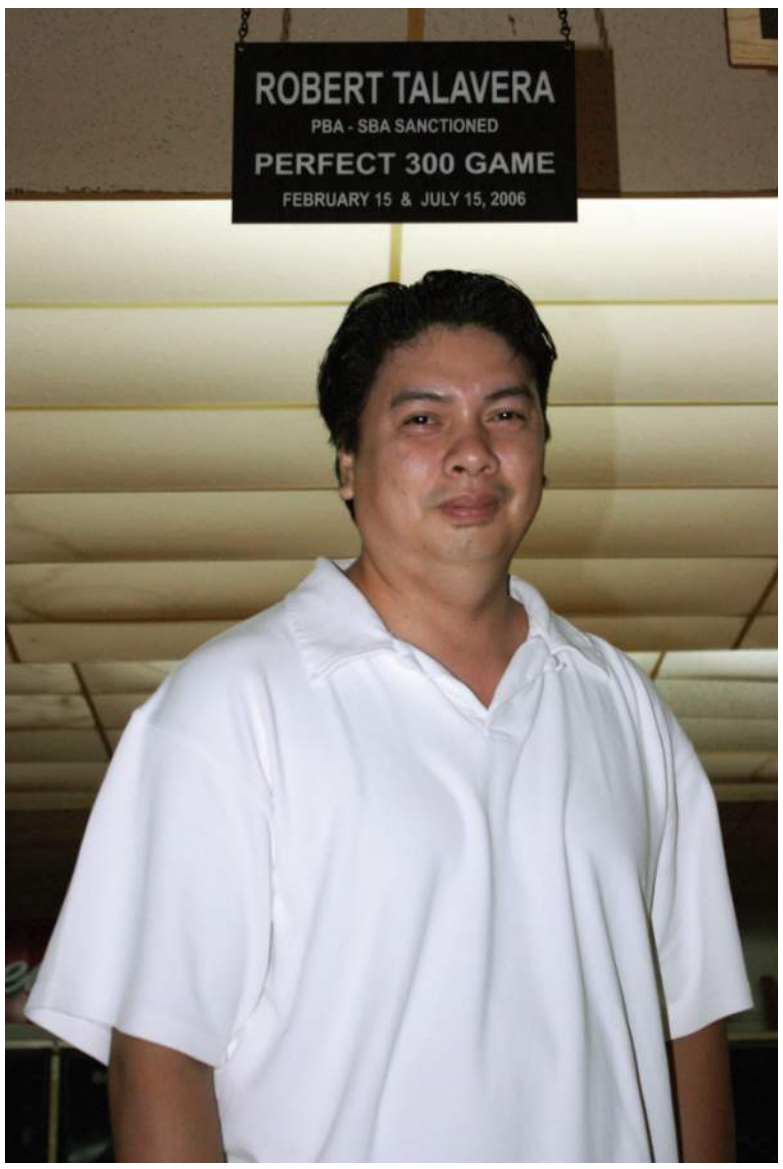
A Lions runner, left, and the Ol'Aces first baseman gets ready for the next play.

A Comets II baseman picks up a grounder.

A Go See Mark Ol'Aces' runner tries to avoid a tag-out at second base.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Talavera rolls sixth perfect game



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robert Talavera is seen in this file photo posing below a sign bearing his name and the dates of his first and second perfect games at the Saipan Bowling Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran bowler Robert Talavera extended his perfect game record to six after a flawless performance in the Philippine Bowling Association's Saturday Night League at the Saipan Bowling Center on April 13.

It was an unexpected feat for Talavera, as he was just aiming to surpass the 256 of series leader Raymond Zapanta to get the cash pot.

"Raymond was really playing well and I was trying to catch up with him to get the cash prize. However, I started to get into my zone and before I knew it, I was getting closer to another perfect game," said Talavera, who admitted he still felt the pressure on his last throw despite owning five 300 games.

"The pressure will always be there, but you still have to be confident and concentrate on your shot. I am thankful that I also gained support from my fellow bowlers, who believe I can do it and have another perfect game," said the J's Restaurant bet, who set the perfect game on lanes 3 and 4.

The 44-year-old veteran also said he is proud of the added achievement, as while other bowlers have only one perfect and most are still searching for their first, he already got his sixth.

"This will definitely push me to play harder despite my age. I will continue to practice more and improve my game," Talavera said.

The sixth-time perfect gamer recorded his first on Feb. 15, 2006 at the Saipan Bowling Center where he works as lanes supervisor. His second 300 was also made at his home turf five months later (July 15, 2006), while the third and fourth ones were posted back-to-back, on Sept. 23 and 24, 2007, during the September King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament.

Then it took more than three years before Talavera set an immaculate record anew, as he earned his fifth 300 on Feb. 11, 2011, during the Friday Night Mixed League.

Besides Talavera, only 10 others owned perfect games here. The list includes Benny Pangelinan, Jaime Sasamoto, Jonathan Hensley, Dannie Robles, Raymond Zapanta, Richard Leong, Arnel Del Rosario, Efren Cacdac, Raymond Angeles, and Alex Castro. Pangelinan earned the distinction of being the first bowler to hit 300, making the feat on March 10, 1982.

Red Sox down Comets in Junior League

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A JPO Enforcer pitcher in action during the second inning of their game against X-clusive in the Junior League of the SLLB last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Starting pitcher Nathan Camacho nearly had a no-hitter to lift the Red Sox to a 9-2 win over the Comets in the first game in the Junior League of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Pala-

See RED SOX on Page 26

Jones proves worth in collegiate league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI ace pitcher Joshua Jones continues to have an impressive collegiate debut.

In this month alone in the National Junior College Athletics Association Region VI, Jones pitched for Colby Community College in five games (starter in three matches) and owned a perfect record. The Trojans are in second place in the Western Division of the Division I of NJCC with their 17-11 card (29-15 overall). Jones' team is also competing in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference and leads the Western Conference, ahead of Dodge City, Seward County, Garden City, Butler, Barton, Hutchinson, Cloud County, and Pratt.

"I am now a conference starting pitcher. My pitching records this month are 3-0 win-loss and two no decisions in 29 innings pitched. I gave up 5 unearned runs, 15 hits, and 3 base on balls. I also had 38 strikeouts

See JONES on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua Jones gets ready to pitch during one of Colby Community College's games at home in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference.

Favored bikers win in SCA Race 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Butch Sublemente leads a group of bikers heading up to FEBC during last Sunday's SCA MTB & Road Race 4.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Forty-eight bikers participated in last Sunday's SCA MTB & Road Race 4 with favored riders winning their respective divisions.

In the MTB championship course, Butch Sublemente took the top honors after clocking in at 1:24:29. Sublemente and 16 other bikers went through Mobil Tanapag, FEBC, road back to the Marianas Country Club course, one million gallon tank, Radar, Kalabera, Bird Island, up to the paved road to Kimikaze and down, Autobahn Trail, Santa Clause Lane, and Banzai Trail before turning to Mariana Resort for the finish.

Sublemente cut the tape about five minutes ahead of youth biker Jerome Diyco, who clocked in at 1:29:48. Ken Pierson completed the Top 3 with his 1:30:31, while Glorybel Tan and Wynn Bryant Brillo were lone finisher in their respective divisions (women and U18) and submitted 2:17:05 and 2:03:52, respectively.

In the 45-and-below age group, Rusty Valino logged in 1:31:56, about six minutes ahead of runner-up Mark Isip (1:37:40), Samson Tan came in at third with his 1:50:33. John Arceo won the 46-and-above division against eight others after timing in at 1:30:20. About two minutes behind Arceo was runner-up Noel Altamirano, 1:32:51. Larry Malig came in a third with his 1:36:50, followed

See FAVORED on Page 26